MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 MARCH 1981

Iran

Tehran University Disturbances--In a recorded speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Prosecutor General Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi Ardabili said that the judicial authorities have gathered a large amount of evidence about the 5 March Tehran University disturbances and about President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's personal guard. The prosecutor general stressed that although discussion of complaints against the president "might be inconsistent" with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's recent directives, neither the president nor any other official is above the law. If the law is to prevail, he said, anyone who has broken it must be tried and convicted. Evidence is also being gathered on complaints lodged by "counterrevolutionaries" against Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi, Musavi Ardabili noted. Regarding the work of a committee set up to investigate allegations of torture in prisons, he said that the absence of Khomeyni's representative and another committee member has "crippled" the investigation.

Presidential Powers, Khomeyni Guidelines--Interior Minister Ayatollah Mohammad Mahdavi-Kani has questioned President Bani-Sadr's right to appoint the head of police. In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, the minister said Bani-Sadr had misinterpreted the Constitution when he recently appointed a new police chief. It is the minister of the interior and not the armed forces commander in chief, he said, who should appoint police and gendarmerie officials. Although Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i has not yet commented publicly on Ayatollah Khomeyni's 16 March guidelines, his minister of state, Nabavi, told a Tehran press conference that the instructions have created the "atmosphere of peace" that the government requires.

U.S. Embassy Fire--According to AFP, a fire in the former U.S. Embassy took several hours to bring under control. A revolutionary guard said the fire was caused by a short circuit, the news agency reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

INA reported that in a battle near Susangerd, Iranian troops were forced to retreat after losing 118 men, while Tehran radio said that 100 Iraqis were killed during the clash. INA also reported a "fierce" battle in Gilan-e Gharb in which 223 Iranians were killed. It added that Iraqi aircraft attacked an Iranian tank concentration in Gilan-e Gharb.

Kurdish Situation

In a 12 March report, Tehran radio said revolution guards clashed with "armed outlaws" in Mahabad and Bukan, killing nine. It added that 30 members of the leftwing Komeleh and Rastagari Kurdish groups have surrendered to the guards. On 14 March the radio reported a clash between Iranian forces and counterrevolutionaries in Miandow'ab and the surrender of 13 Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) members. During recent battles between KDP and Komeleh forces in Paygolan, the radio reported on 18 March, 15 Komeleh troops were killed. Ayatollah Khomeyni's son-in-law, Shahabeddin Eshraqi, arrived in Urumiyeh on 18 March, Tehran radio said, where he will review the problems involved in implementing Ayatollah Khomeyni's decree concerning amnesty for members of "illegal armed groups."

Afghanistan

In a speech to the PDPA Central Committee Fifth Plenum, reported by Kabul radio, Prime Minister Babrak Karmal stated that the DRA "severely condemns" statements by U.S. officials, including President Ronald Reagan, of the U.S. "intention" to supply arms to Afghan "counter-revolutionary mercenaries." The "provocative" U.S. policy, he said, can only delay a political solution to the Afghan question. Referring to the recent hijacking of a Pakistani airliner to Kabul, Karmal asserted that his government took a "principled humanitarian" stand aimed at saving the lives of innocent people and tried to end the hijacking through "political" means. The Pakistani Government, however, misinterpreted Afghanistan's intentions, showed "complete indifference" to the fate of the passengers and avoided finding a solution, he added. Nonetheless, Karmal said, Pakistan and Afghanistan remain neighbors, as do Iran and Afghanistan, and the three countries must resolve their differences by taking an objective approach and clearing up misunderstandings. He reiterated that the DRA is prepared to hold bilateral talks with Pakistan and Iran to consider a solution to the "situation around Afghanistan."

Lebanon

In the wake of artillery shelling of Al-Qantarah by Maj Sa'd Haddad's Christian militia forces, Jerusalem radio reported that the IDF commander in the north, Maj Gen Avigdor Ben-Gal, met with the UNIFIL commander, Gen William Callaghan, at the latter's request. The radio said their conversation became "extremely tense" when the Israeli commander rejected demands by Callaghan, including a call for the removal of IDF units from southern Lebanon. Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin wants to calm the situation in southern Lebanon, the radio said, and Israel's chief of staff, Lt Gen Rafa'el Eytan, met with Haddad and demanded that he avoid further incidents. However, in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Israel's deputy defense minister, Mordekhay Tzipori, said his country will not allow the status quo in southern Lebanon to be violated and will not desert Haddad. Meanwhile, Beirut radio, citing a UN spokesman, reported that UNIFIL and Lebanese Army units have been deployed in Al-Qantarah. The spokesman denied that Lebanese Army units have withdrawn, although the radio had earlier reported that a Lebanese unit was withdrawing from the town in order to spare bloodshed there.

Libya

JANA reported that Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is to pay an "official cordial visit" to the Soviet Union. According to a related TASS report, the date of the visit will be decided later.

YAR-Saudi Arabia

Citing official Yemeni sources, JANA reported that Saudi forces attacked three YAR border areas but were driven back by YAR forces. The report, which did not say when the clashes occurred, added that 15 Saudis and 8 Yemenis were killed.

PDRY

According to a 17 March Muscat radio report, the PDRY Government is forcing most inhabitants of Socotra Island to move to the mainland in response to a request by the Soviet Union, which wants to expand its military installations on the island. The evacuation of the island, it added, is likely to be completed within 5 months.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT HOLDS TALKS WITH 'ISLAMIC GROUPING'

JN181734 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] The Islamic grouping and the committee for safeguarding the south met at 1030 today.

At 1200 brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Brother Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], members of the Fatah Central Committee, visited the Islamic grouping headquarters.

During the 90-minute visit the general situation in the region and Lebanon was reviewed in connection with the Palestinian and Lebanese issues.

It was also agreed to resume meetings between the Palestinian revolution's leadership and the Islamic grouping at a later date.

'ARAFAT SPEAKS ON MILITARY STANCE OF JOINT FORCES

JN181926 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1628 GMT 18 Mar 81

["Text" of speech delivered by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat--identified by nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar--at 18 March graduation ceremony of special forces unit; place not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, at this time when the joint forces are confronting this imperialist-Zionist onslaught under the patronage of U.S. imperialism in an attempt to contain our region and to impose imperialist-Zionist hegemony over this region and our Arab nation as well; at this time which I call the evil time, the difficult time and the dangerous time, our struggling and mujahidin elements of the joint forces are taking their positions in the advanced trenches not to defend themselves or the Palestinian revolution or Lebanon or even Palestine but to defend the entire Arab nation from the sea to the Gulf. [applause]

We know that the U.S. and Israeli resolve is to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and to liquidate the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces. Brothers, it is no coincidence that the United States has given its green light. As I said 2 days ago, Tzipori--following Shamir's visit--will also leave for the United States to put the final touches on the design to control this region. [Words indistinct] we are in this position and within range of the 6th Fleet artillery and that of the Rapid Deployment Force which they have dispatched to the region. As I said the other day, even if all the world fights us and even if the Rapid Deployment Force wants to enter the region, we say welcome to them. I say this again on behalf of the joint forces, welcome to this force, for the mountain will not be shaken by the wind. [applause]

Brothers, we should understand the meaning of the recent dogfight in northern Lebanon between the Syrian air force and the [word indistinct] pirates. This clash was meant to be a message directed to us, to Syria and to their agents in Lebanon. I tell them: No one has been frightened; no one is scared. We in this revolution and joint forces do not panic but scare others. This should be made clear to everyone. [applause]

I understand that what is taking place in Lebanon is a link in the chain of the conspiracy against the region, which is in turn part of the logic of struggle through which U.S. imperialism is trying to control the region. I know this very well; you know it, too. They think that by dispatching the Rapid Deployment Force or by sicking the Israeli watchdog they can change the equation. I tell Begin and the Israeli watchdog equipped with the most sophisticated U.S.-made weapons, I tell them that no one can change the equation in this region. [applause]

Only one thing can change the equation in this region: this Lebanese-Palestinian gun, for it is the owner of the equation in the region. [applause] I say all this, brothers, neither in poetry nor prose, I say all this to everyone, I say this so that Begin, Etan and Tzipori and their agents in the Arab region like As-Sadat and others may hear me very well. I say this because there are many agents other than As-Sadat who are still hidden. So I say this so that the agents in the region may understand me. I say that the eqation in this region can only be changed--as was the case in the past--by the fighter of the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces, this fighter of the Palestinian revolution. This equation can be put to its decisive end only through the barrel of our gun. [applause] Neither the 6th, 5th or 7th Fleets can change this equation. None of the U.S. bases like those in Ras Banas, [word indistinct], Berbera, Masira, Mombasa and the Gulf can change this equation.

If they believe that by means of a military operation--as Begin thinks--they can destroy the Palestinian revolution in order to support their positions in the elections inside Israel, I tell them: You are wrong, for this mountain can never be moved, by neither U.S., Zionist nor agent winds. This mountain is firm and steadfast. [applause]

I say this to everyone: No one can change the equation in the Middle East except for one factor, namely the Palestinian revolution and the joint forces. This factor is the Lebanese-Palestinian gun stationed in the most advanced trench to defend the honor and the integrity of our Arab nation.

'ARAFAT CALLS JORDANIAN OPTION 'SENSELESS'

LD181137 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 15 Mar 81 pp 42, 44

[Dina Nascetti interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat: "Why I Do Not Like Israeli Peace Plan"--date and place not specified]

[Text] L'ESPRESSO 3 weeks ago published an interview with Shimon Peres, who will probably be Israel's next prime minister, following the 7 July election. Among the various topics discussed he answered a number of questions on foreign policy and particularly on what kind of relations an Israeli Labor government would try to establish with the Middle Eastern countries and the Palestinians. Basically, Peres said that Israel would be willing to withdraw from the occupied territories (the West Bank and Gaza, which have been under Israeli administration since the 1967 war) and proposed that a Jordanian-Palestinian state be created on those territories. Essentially, the Laborite leader was thus declaring his acceptance of the so-called "Jordanian option."

These remarks did not escape the notice of Yasir 'Arafat, unchallenged leader of the Palestinian resistance and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who wished to reply to his Israeli adversary in these pages, in an interview with Dina Nascetta.

'Arafat: What right has Shimon Peres to determine our future? He himself belongs to the "military junta" that is occupying our territories and using terrorism against our people. So according to him we should establish our state on the West Bank: Where shall we put the Jordanians? Perhaps Peres would send them to Iraq, the Iraqis would transfer them to the Gulf and the people of the Gulf would transfer them to Iran. What about the Iranians? Would the Iranians try to have them accepted by the United States? Where would we send over 2 million Palestinians scattered all over the world? To the Soviet Union? Believe me, the Jordanian solution is senseless.

L'ESPRESSO: Nevertheless, Peres was very determined and clear on this point. He said that if Jordan refuses to pursue the path of peace, Israel has other ways of achieving it. Is this a threat?

'Arafat: More than a threat, it is a unilateral argument. Shimon Peres seems to forget that the Jordanian option has been rejected several times by Husayn, by the Palestinians in the occupied territories, by the PLO and by the Nonaligned Conference, not to mention the UN resolutions against it. In any case threats are nothing new from Peres: Points 17, 18 and 27 of the Labor Party political program are clear about the political elimination of the PLO and the intensification of defense actions along Israel's borders. What does this mean? We have information that Israel is planning a large-scale offensive against the southern areas of Lebanon. So the so-called "defense of the borders" is nothing but a smokescreen to conceal an offensive action.

L'ESPRESSO: So, if the Laborites win the next Israeli election, will nothing change?

'Arafat: Begin's party, the Likud, has attacked our people with weapons and with fascist slogans; the Labor Party simply wears a velvet glove on the same iron fist.

L'ESPRESSO: But Peres says that he is willing to negotiate with Palestinians who recognize the State of Israel and reject terrorism....

'Arafat: How dare Peres talk about other people's terrorism? Israel conducts terrorist action every day against our refugee camps in southern Lebanon, against Lebanese civilians and against my people in the occupied territories. Ask Mayor of Nabulus Bassam ash-Shak'ah, who had both legs amputated after an attack, what happened to him! There is no lack of further examples--from the confiscation of lands to the wholesale settlement of Israeli colonists, the closing of the universities, indiscriminate arrests of students and teachers and the expulsion of civilians and politicians. Is this not terrorism too? Before trusting Israel, the world public must understand how much my people suffer every day as a result of this state terrorism.

L'ESPRESSO: Peres maintains that it is impossible to negotiate with the PLO because the PLO is split into six separate factions, none of which can take binding decisions, and compared it to a broken tumbler of water....

'Arafat: Peres is well aware that the PLO is the only real democratic force in this area, and that is why he is afraid of it. Indeed, we are proud of being a pluralist force which expresses itself freely through its own national council, taking into account the various ethnic groups and various viewpoints. Why, on the other hand, is there never any mention of the splits--above all outright racial discrimination--within Israel? Between sephardim and ashkenazim, for instance--not to mention the black Jews? In the Knesset a month ago some deputies demanded that these blacks be thrown into the sea, but subsequently decided to banish them to colonies in the Negev desert. Israeli democracy feeds on these contradictions, and it must not be forgotten that the United Nations itself has compared Zionism to racism.

L'ESPRESSO: Israel maintains that for security reasons it cannot accept the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the occupied territories....

'Arafat: It is like saying that they have a right to exist and we do not.

L'ESPRESSO: Mr 'Arafat, would you accept zones controlled by the United Nations, for instance, on the borders of a future state?

'Arafat: Israel maintains that it is threatened by the entire Arab world, but does not say that it has 20 nuclear bombs. It is we who demand guarantees of our own security.

L'ESPRESSO: Do you not believe that faced with the impossibility of reaching a solution the Palestinians in the occupied territories might sooner or later agree to some kind of compromise with Israel?

'Arafat: Definitely not. They have already rejected such offers on several occasions. At the latest summit in At-Ta'if I saw significant evidence of this steadfastness ('Arafat showed me a photocopy of a large document addressed to the heads of state of the Islamic conference, signed by all the mayors and representatives of trade union and various other organizations, in short by all heads of Palestine organizations in the occupied territories, confirming that the PLO is the Palestinian people's only legitimate representative--L'ESPRESSO editor's note).

L'ESPRESSO: What is the significance of the change at the White House?

'Arafat: During their election campaigns Carter, Reagan and Anderson all said violent things about the PLO. We attached no importance to them because they seemed to be part of the electoral pitch, which could not upset the Jewish lobby. After the election, however, I was very surprised by Reagan's remarks. We have sent a protest note to the United Nations, in which we state that the United States has no right to insult another member of the organization. In any case, it is a sign that Reagan's policy is unfortunately no different from his predecessor's, despite the fact that the Camp David agreements have reached a stalemate.

L'ESPRESSO: What do you expect from Europe?

'Arafat: Hitherto the EEC countries have only expressed viewpoints, without proposing any general initiative to resolve the Middle East problems.

L'ESPRESSO: In his opening address to the 26th CPSU Congress Brezhnev reintroduced the idea of an international conference attended by all the sides involved in the Middle East issue. Do you consider this a path to be pursued?

'Arafat: I have already said that this could be a launchpad.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE MEETS IN AMMAN

JN141551 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Amman, 14 Mar (PETRA)--The joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee held a meeting at the committee's office today to discuss issues related to supporting steadfastness in the occupied territory and to review the agenda of the committee's forthcoming meeting. During the meeting, which was attended by Hasan Ibrahim, head of the Jordanian side to the committee and minister of occupied land affairs, and Hamid Abu Sittah, head of the Palestinian side, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Occupied Homeland Department, the two sides approved backing for a number of projects in various fields.

The JNA correspondent has learned that the committee's forthcoming meeting, to be held next week, will approve a comprehensive plan for the committee's new fiscal year in light of an evaluation of the previous stage and the requirements for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory in order to enable them to confront the challenges and the Israeli enemy's schemes.

Meeting With Arab Ambassadors

JN161549 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Amman, 16 Mar (PETRA)--Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied land affairs, and Hamid Abu Sittah, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Occupied Homeland Department, who are the heads of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for supporting the Palestinian people's steadfastness, held a meeting this morning at the committee's technical office in Amman with ambassadors of the Arab states which contribute to the financing of the fund for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people inside the occupied land.

Heads of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee briefed the ambassadors on the committee's work and its support for the various agricultural, industrial, educational and cultural spheres as well as the other services in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. These services were financed by the money available in the committee's fund last year.

They also outlined the comprehensive support plan for the coming year which will be ratified by the committee. The plan is based on the money that the fund will receive from the contributing fraternal Arab countries.

The heads of the committee voiced their hope that the committee will be able to expand its aid to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied land in all fields of development in order to fulfill more of the objectives that are intended to establish the inhabitants in their land and houses and to foil the Zionist enemy's aggressive settlement designs.

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES WFDY MEETING IN BEIRUT

NC190926 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The seminar on youth and student solidarity with the Lebanese people concluded its work yesterday while the Executive Committee of the WFDY began its meetings in Beirut.

The opening session was addressed by brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] on behalf of the Palestinian revolution and Comrade George Hawi on behalf of the Lebanese national movement.

In his speech Brother Abu 'Ammar reviewed the stages of the Zionist plot and aggression against the Lebanese and the Palestinian peoples and the joint forces' heroism in confronting the plots. He criticized the campaign being waged by Washington against the Soviet Union, the PLO and the national liberation movements under the pretext of accusing them of international terrorism.

Brother Abu 'Ammar noted that Israel, with the encouragement of Washington, is preparing to wage a new military operation in southern Lebanon. He affirmed that the Palestinian revolution was prepared to confront it. Abu 'Ammar stressed that the Palestinian revolution will remain the difficult figure in the equation and that there will be no solution at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights.

JANA REPORTS SAUDI-YAR CLASHES IN BORDER AREA

LD190026 Tripoli JANA in English 1832 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Mar (JANA)--Reports from Riyadh and San'a' said that violent armed clashes have taken place between the Saudi and North Yemeni forces on the border areas of Sida, Waila and Biqa. Official Yemeni sources confirmed these reports to our correspondent here and added that the Saudi forces suddenly attacked Yemeni forces at the above-mentioned spots, occupying them before the Yemeni forces counterattacked to drive them out once more.

The Saudi forces took heavy losses in life and equipment including 15 soldiers reported dead and 6 armoured vehicles destroyed. The Yemeni forces lost 8 soldiers.

The official Yemeni source added that the Saudis have long claimed the areas of Sida, Waila and Biqa as part of their kingdom and demanded redrawing the borders accordingly.

BAHRAIN

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN MANAMA 18 MAR

JN181839 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1810 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Manama, 18 Mar (GNA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Manama this evening on a short visit to Bahrain as part of his current tour of countries in the area.

The Syrian minister will deliver a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah on bilateral relations and current Arab and international relations.

Meeting With Amir

JN181907 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1820 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Manama, 18 Mar (GNA)--Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The message was delivered by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, when he was received by the amir of Bahrain this evening.

The meeting was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

The message deals with bilateral relations, the current Arab situation and issues of mutual interest.

19 Mar Departure

JN190720 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Manama, 19 Mar (GNA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, left Manama for Damascus this morning at the end of a 1-day visit to Bahrain, the last leg of his tour of the region's states.

During his visit Khaddam conveyed a message to Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the current Arab situation, the confrontation of the circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing and bilateral relations.

Khaddam also held talks with Bahraini Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah on current Arab developments and issues on the agenda of the Arab League session to be held next Monday.

KUWAIT

SYRIA'S KHADDAM ARRIVES 17 MAR FROM RIYADH

LD171740 Kuwait KUNA in English 1507 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Mar (KUNA)--Syrian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived here this afternoon from Riyadh in the second leg of a Gulf tour which will take him to Qatar and Bahrain.

The Syrian envoy was met at the airport by Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister and acting Minister of Information Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad and senior officials.

Khaddam said on arrival that he is carrying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to his highness the amir dealing with Arab world developments.

The message is also related to regional events and the necessity of fraternal consultations at this particular time, the Syrian deputy premier said.

The Syrian presidential message to H.H. the amir will be delivered Wednesday.

18 Mar Departure

LD180828 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0807 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Mar (KUNA)--Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam left here today for Ad-Dawhah, the third stage of a rapid tour of the Gulf states. Before leaving he met the Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah and handed him a letter from President Hafiz al-Asad. The contents of the letter were not revealed. But on his arrival here from Saudi Arabia yesterday, Mr Khaddam said that the letter dealt with the present Arab situation and latest developments in the Middle East.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN KUWAIT VIEWS GULF SECURITY

LD180935 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 14 Mar 81 p 8

[Mustafa Abu Libdah interview with Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Nikolay Sikachev in Kuwait--date not given]

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Nikolay Sikachev said that concentrated and particular attention was given to the Gulf and Middle East situation at the 26th CPSU Congress which was held in Moscow from 23 February through 3 March. At the congress the Soviet leadership proposed what could be described as suitable ways out of the impasses in the area.

The Soviet ambassador was replying to a question from AS-SIYASAH concerning new developments in the international situation in the Gulf and the Middle East and the problems that have recently been under discussion in this regard and the connection between these and the Afghanistan problem.

The Soviet ambassador said that the recent congress in Moscow carefully examined all world political issues and on the basis of this examination put forth a number of proposals whose aim is to eliminate nuclear weapons. In his report President Brezhnev underlined the obvious difference between the Soviet viewpoint and the Western idea of protecting peace. Instead of building up arms and forces in the area we propose the elimination of the military threat by reaching a worldwide agreement.

Continuing his statement to AS-SIYASAH, the ambassador said that the tense situation in the Middle East stems directly from the failure to reach a settlement for the whole region as yet. The Soviet Union has more than once warned of the possibility of the negative consequences of the Middle East crisis mushrooming. President Brezhnev once again called from the congress rostrum for a constructive search for a way out of the crisis that has been caused by Camp David. For many years the Soviet Union has been supporting the idea of turning the Indian Ocean and, of course, the Gulf into a peace zone. The Soviet Union has always been the greatest advocate of implementing the UN declaration issued in this regard 10 years ago. During his visit to India at the end of last year President Brezhnev put forward new constructive proposals aimed at creating a stable situation in the area.

Linking the Gulf to Afghanistan

Sikachev added that the Soviet Union, in supporting the reaching of a practical agreement on solving Gulf problems, of course takes into consideration the legitimate interests of the countries of the area, which are nonalignment, which these countries have chosen, the abolition of foreign military bases, the banning of destructive weapons, respect for countries' sovereign rights to their natural wealth and the safeguarding of freedom of shipping routes and oil shipments.

Unfortunately, the West has rejected these proposals, using Afghanistan as an excuse for its military presence here. In this regard President Brezhnev announced that the Soviet Union is always ready to discuss the Gulf situation as an independent issue but, at the same time, does not object to discussing the Afghanistan problem in conjunction with Gulf security, which only applies to the international aspects of the Afghan problem and not to the internal affairs of Afghanistan, whose sovereignty and principle of nonalignment must be respected.

The Soviet ambassador believes that his country's stand aimed at ending tension in the Gulf within the framework of the new Soviet peace initiative will open new doors to constructive solutions to the problems of the area, which requires that serious consideration be given to these proposals. The Soviet ambassador wondered about the meaning of the Western leaders' statements regarding their intention to keep NATO naval formations in the area if they really want to preserve peace in the region.

Ambassador Sikachev then referred to President Brezhnev's statement that it is illogical for the West to believe that the defense of its oil interests will be realized by turning the region into a powderkeg when everybody knows that the Gulf people reject this idea and refuse to live under a Western security unbrella. One can only agree with the declaration that strengthening peace and not preparing for war is the solution and the key to the future, the ambassador concluded.

OMAN

MUSCAT REPORTS PDRY ACTIVITIES ON SOCOTRA ISLAND

LD172050 Muscat Domestic Service Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Reliable sources have reported from Aden that the regime there has embarked on forcing the majority of the islanders of Socotra to vacate their island and to move to the mainland in implementation of orders by the Soviets who want to expand the naval base there. It is likely that evacuation of the island will be complete within the next 5 months.

The reports indicate that the Soviets are supervizing work on military installations on the island. Work on the island is being speeded up because of their concern over the deteriorating security situation in Aden, where resistance is increasing and Russian soldiers have been attacked.

COMMENTARY ON SOVIET GULF SECURITY PROPOSAL

LD172244 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Mar 81 EA

[Station commentary]

[Text] Reports say that during the 26th CPSU Congress the USSR and its satellites proposed the convening of an international conference to discuss making the Indian Ocean a zone of security and peace. In commenting on this report we say:

When the littoral states of the Indian Ocean express fear at the transformation of the ocean into a theater for the (?display) of the big powers' fleets and an arena for international conflict they have every right to be worried for they do not want to be fodder in a conflict that is not of their concern.

When the world expresses its fear of this rivalry and that conflict, it too has every reason to do so as it has been burned by two world wars, the vestiges of the last of which are visible [word indistinct], and for this reason it does not want to be traumatized by a new world war that may break out as a natural consequence of this conflict. But when Russia and its satellites in Aden and Ethiopia express their great concern and deep fear for the security of the Indian Ocean, that is (?hypocritical) and ludicrous. [Words indistinct] but the ultimate calamity is what makes one laugh. [Arabic proverb]

The Kremlin masters are solicitous about security in the Indian Ocean. They are worried about the presence of the big powers' fleets in the Indian Ocean.

We ask: Who planted anxiety in the Indian Ocean? Who establishes bases at the entry point of the Red Sea in the ports of South Yemen and Ethiopia and threatened the transport lanes and commerce between East and West? Who opened the arena for rivalry and conflict? The Indian Ocean region, as is the case with the Gulf region, used to be a zone of security and stability until (?the Russians) got themselves a foothold in Aden. Thereafter the region lost its stability as it became apprehensive of Moscow's expansionist policies. The octopus then began stretching its tentacles to the region of the Horn of Africa, Angola, Mozambique and Afghanistan. Its fleets spread not only in the Indian Ocean but throughout the region, becoming sources of concern and threats.

A few days ago the director of the Japanese Defense Agency declared that the increasing Soviet military presence in the Indian Ocean constitutes a real threat to the security of Japan. It has also been reported that units of the Soviet Navy have docked at Mozambique ports, indicative of a new Soviet adventure in Africa. The octopus is still stretching its tentacles in search of new lands and new victims.

All these aggressive intentions notwithstanding, and despite all Moscow's expansionist tendencies, the Kremlin leaders show their concern and solicitude for peace and the security of the Indian Ocean. What a contradiction between word and deed. What a deceptive approach. But no one can be deceived any longer by this.

Everyone is aware that the honeyed words by the Kremlin leaders conceal deadly poison. Their dazzling slogans have no meaning.

The nonaligned states expressed their awareness in New Delhi of what is happening by unanimously condemning the conduct of Moscow and its agents in Afghanistan and Cambodia and by demanding that the Indian Ocean be kept as a zone of security and peace.

But let us leave the Kremlin leaders and their deceptive and repetitive methods. Let us ask [word indistinct] in Aden and Ethiopia: Why are you concerned about the safety of the ocean and the security of the Gulf? Is it not sufficient that you have hitched yourselves to the wheel of the USSR and thus marked yourselves out as agents and linked your existence to its existence and your destiny with its destiny. You have become its bugle, shadow and cat's paw.

Is it not sufficient for you rulers of Aden, our little red comrades, to have become the first to achieve the time-honored dream of the Russian csars and placed South Yemen, its territory and people under the control of Moscow? What for? Is it for uncertain and capricious protection and Moscow's support? Or is it for a cooperation agreement that is more of a protection agreement? Why are you concerned, little red comrades of Aden, about the safety of the ocean and the security of the Gulf?

This region used to be secure and stable. You then planted anxieties and tensions in it and turned yourselves into a threatening and dangerous center [words indistinct]. Some days ago four of the secessionists in the Basque area of Spain admitted that they received training at a camp in southern Yemen. You are incapable of living in peace with others because you are sitting on a powderkeg. You seem to be hurt that peace should reign over your region and its peoples. You find it difficult to let others live in peace. Otherwise, how do you explain your permitting the Soviets to build sites for missiles and long-range artillery in two areas in southern Yemen, near the border with the YAR?

You are fully aware that these missiles are capable of threatening the (Sawda) camp and (Dar Jahl) airport. Has San'a' (?threatened) you? Has it stretched an aggressive hand toward you? Has this behavior any meaning apart from your own predilection for aggressiveness? And after all this do you talk about the safety of the ocean and security of the Gulf? It does not matter. Continue with the role you have chosen for yourselves and move in the Soviet orbit for as long as you wish. Everything has its inevitable end. The protective Soviet umbrella cannot continue for ever. The pent-up anger of the [word indistinct] Yemeni people is bound to explode one day [word indistinct].

Leave the safety of the ocean and the security of the Gulf to those who will not allow themselves be used as bridges for the achievement of Moscow's ambitions. Leave that to the believing Muslim and Arab states of the Gulf who are concerned with the matter. They are aware today that the security of the Gulf can only be achieved through [word indistinct] and consultations and the strengthening of the bonds of cooperation among themselves to ward off the single threat and to achieve the single objective, namely, the Gulf Cooperation Council, recently (?established) in Riyadh--that is a great step along this road.

Kremlin leaders and their agents in Aden: Keep your hands and eyes off the Gulf, for its states are capable of protecting it against any threat.

QATAR

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FROM KUWAIT

JN181046 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Doha, 18 Mar (GNA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Doha this morning from Kuwait on an official 1-day visit to Qatar within the context of a tour of several states in the area.

On arrival Khaddam stated that he is carrying a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani on the current situation and possible developments in the region.

He was received upon arrival by Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani.

Meeting With Amir

JN181820 Doha QNA in Arabic 1655 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Doha, 18 Mar (QNA)--Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received an oral message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The message was conveyed by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, when he was received by the amir this evening.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs.

QNA has learned that the message deals with current Arab developments, bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

SAUDI ARABIA

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVED IN RIYADH

LD170952 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0850 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Mar (SPA)--'Abd al-Halim Khadam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Riyadh this morning for a visit to Saudi Arabia. Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and a number of officials were at the airport to receive him.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, 2d deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, in his office at 1100 today received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The meeting was attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri, assistant deputy commander of the national guard, and Shaykh 'Abd al-Muhsin az-Zayd, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Syria. The conversation during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations between the two countries and a number of issues of mutual interest.

Departure Report

GF171929 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Riyadh earlier today with a verbal message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister left Riyadh following a short visit to Saudi Arabia. He was received and seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

OIL PRODUCTION INCREASES 3.8 PERCENT IN 1980

GF171214 Jidda ARAB NEWS in English 16 Mar 81 p 1

[By Scott Pendelton, Riyadh bureau]

[Text] Riyadh, March 15--Saudi Arabia's crude oil production in 1980 reached 9,900,394 barrels per day, according to SAUDI ARABIA, OIL AND GAS WORLD, a new publication released to ARAB NEWS Sunday by the Ministry of Petroleum. That level is a 3.8 percent increase over the 9,532,572 bpd produced in 1979. Total crude production in 1980 was 3,623,544,126 barrels.

Aramco was responsible for the increase, with its production rising from 9,251,079 bpd in 1979 to 9,631,366 in 1980. Production from the Getty Oil Co. concession in the onshore neutral zone declined during 1980 to 77,260 bpd from 82,485 bpd the previous year. Production from the Arabian Oil Co. i the offshore neutral zone also declined, from 199,008 bpd in 1979 to 191,768 bpd in 1980.

The oil reserves of all three companies, and therefore of Saudi Arabia as a whole, declined in 1980. Aramco's crude reserves slipped from 164.77 billion barrels to 164.22 billion barrels. Getty's reserves dropped to 0.45 billion barrels from 0.48 billion, and Arabian Oil Co.'s reserves sank from 3.14 billion to 2.79 billion barrels. As a whole the kingdom's reserves declined from 168.39 to 167.46 billion barrels. That is about 25 percent of the world's proved reserves, according to Petroleum Minister Zaki Yamani, who wrote the preface to the publication.

Saudi Arabia's gas output also increased during 1980 over 1979. Production was 1,919,120 million standard cubic feet (MMSCF), that is, a 2.5 percent increase over the 1,872,322 MMSCF net production in 1979.

The entire increase came from Aramco. In 1980 the company produced 1,884,354 MMSCF of gas, or 5.148 billion cubic feet per day, compared to 1,836,233 MMSCF in 1979. Getty's gas output declined from 9,333 MMSCF in 1979 to 8,766 MMSCF in 1980. ACCS output slipped to 26,000 MMSCF in 1980 from 16,756 the year before.

The portion of Aramco's gas production which was reinjected decreased from 30,945 MMSCF to 9,543 MMSCF. The portion which was used rose from 443,961 MMSCF to 526,1106 MMSCF. The amount of gas Aramco flared dropped from 1,392,272 MMSCF to 1,358,248 MMSCF. On a percentage basis, the portion of gas used or conserved rose from 25.8 to 28.4 percent.

Saudi Arabia's gas reserves at the end of 1980 stood at 116,000 MMSCF, or about 4 percent of the world's total.

In the area of refined products, Aramco's output of LPG jumped from 79,523,000 barrels in 1979 to 96,037,630 barrels in 1980. Exports likewise rose, from 76,224,912 barrels in 1979 to 92,073,660 barrels, in 1980. Domestic sales of LPG declined from 2,701,000 barrels to 2,143,028 barrels.

Output of most other refined products increased from 1979 to 1980: premium gasoline from 14,667,000 to 17,879,000 barrels; regular gasoline from 6,649,000 to 8,164,000 barrels; jet fuel from 248,000 to 355,000 barrels; kerosene from 9,913,000 barrels to 12,526,000 barrels; diesel oil from 34,991,000 to 44,696,000 barrels; and asphalt from 7,937,000 to 8,268,000 barrels.

Output of naptha fell from 51,150,000 to 45,560,000 barrels. Production of fuel dropped from 97,997,000 to 89,048,000 barrels. Total output of refined products increased from 304,735,000 barrels in 1979 to 323,835,000 barrels in 1980.

UAE

EDITORIAL WELCOMES FORD'S VISIT, REAFFIRMS VIEWS

GF171357 Abu Dhabi AL-FAJR in Arabic 16 Mar 81 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] Former U.S. President Gerald Ford's visit to the UAE is a good gesture and a step forward by the Reagan administration in view of the fact that he has come to sound out the views of officials and to convey to them messages bearing the new administration's views.

It is a gesture that we receive with optimism. We are accustomed to giving a good reception to guests in our country. Moreover, we believe in dialogue and discussion and exchange of views, for this is the way to find the facts.

We welcome former President Ford as an emissary of a new administration in the United States that seeks to know the views of others and also put forward its own views.

Ford will, of course, be conveying to President Reagan the UAE views propounded by the UAE president when he received him yesterday. The UAE has firm views from which it does not deviate, particularly when issues vital to the Arab world are concerned.

Regarding the situation in the Gulf we believe in the region's strategic importance and in the need to keep it free of international conflicts, not only in the interest of the peoples of the area but also in the interest of world peace. The collapse of security in strategic areas of the world is bound to undermine stability in the world. Thanks to their awareness and unity, the Gulf countries are capable of safeguarding their security.

The UAE view on the Palestinian question is also firm and clear. The Palestinian people have rights and a usurped land. They should regain their rights and establish their independent state in their homeland.

These are elementary issues in which we believe. No doubt, just as our guest Gerald Ford has heard them from our officials, he will also hear them from every official in the Gulf he will visit and meet.

The new U.S. administration should study these views intelligently and take into consideration the justice that we have been demanding for so long. These are principles we believe in. We draw the attention of the U.S. Government to its interests and the interests of its allies. In this world there are resources which the world wants to benefit from, and there are peoples who believe in friendship, love and mutual interests but who reject domination and tutelage.

Keeping the Arab region free of international conflicts, resolving the Palestinian question and stopping Zionist aggression are the only ways to achieve stability in the area and consequently to safeguard U.S. interests. We hope U.S. views will proceed from such a premise.

LIBYAN FORCES IN CHAD REPORTEDLY PLACED ON ALERT

NC182246 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA)--Reports from the Libyan capital indicate that Libyan Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has ordered a maximum state of alert among the Libyan Armed Forces and that the units occupying Chad have been instructed to be alert and prepared to confront attacks by Chadian revolutionaries.

Informed sources in the Libyan capital say that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi intends to launch an all-out offensive against the areas where the revolutionaries opposed to the Libyan occupation are stationed. Perhaps this offensive will be directed at Sudanese areas where the Chadians fleeing the crimes that Al-Qadhdhafi's forces have committed against them have gone.

These sources say that what raises this possibility is the fact that in a battle in Guereda near the Sudanese border the Libyan forces lost a great number of dead and missing, estimated at well over 35 personnel, and were forced to withdraw from the battle with the Hissein Habre forces.

'ALI SUPPORTS PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IN NORWAY SPEECH

NC182224 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has announced that Egypt firmly adheres to consistent principles to achieve peace in the Middle East. He said that these principles are epitomized in the need to respect human rights and basic liberties, in the right of all the peoples to self-determination, in working to alleviate the confrontation between the big powers, eliminate hotbeds of tension and ensure peaceful coexistence among the various states regardless of their different political and social systems and in resorting to negotiations and peaceful methods to resolve conflicts among states.

In a dinner speech he made at a banquet given by the Norwegian foreign minister in his excellency's honor, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt's stance is totally clear concerning its support for the Palestinian people's right to determine their own fate. Egypt's stance is also clear regarding its belief that ignoring this right will always be the source of tension and instability in the Middle East area. He affirmed that the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights is the best safeguard for the security of all states in the area.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt puts on record its appreciation of Norway's positive attitude toward the Middle East issue, of Norway's support for the peaceful steps first taken by Egypt and of Norway's backing of the Palestinian people's rights.

In concluding his speech Kamal Hasan 'Ali lauded the bilateral relations existing between Egypt and Norway. He expressed his confidence that these relations will flourish in the interests of the two peoples and of peace and understanding among the peoples of the world.

RESTORATION OF RELATIONS WITH SUDAN EXPECTED

NC190811 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0636 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)--AL-AHRAM today reports that Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has said that he proposes to restore full diplomatic relations between Egypt and Sudan and that he intends to establish complete ties with Egypt within the next few weeks. The paper says that the Sudanese president has presented the name of the nominated Sudanese ambassador to Egypt. President Anwar as-Sadat has also approved the nomination of a new Egyptian ambassador to fraternal Sudan preliminary to declaring the restoration of full diplomatic relations between Egypt and Sudan.

CAIRO SEES SUPPORT FOR SUDAN AS IMPERATIVE

NC181417 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Mar 81

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary: "Egypt's National Security Begins With Sudan"]

[Excerpts] One of the rudimentary and self-evident aspects of the foreign policymaking process is the fact that the national security of a state is the first specifier of that state's behavior in the international domain. Furthermore, one would add to the factor of national security the factors of common history and blood relationships between the peoples--and this instance applies to the Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Therefore, this explanation casts light on the roots of Egypt's foreign policy toward Sudan in particular and toward thepresent state of affairs in Africa. Consequently, this policy becomes very clear because of the clarity of its declaration.

Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has expressed Egypt's definite interest in the course of events in Africa. He has also clearly announced that Egypt is working and will continue to work through all the usual political means to end the Libyan intervention in Chad and to ward off the dangers which this intervention poses to Sudan.

To ensure its security, Egypt is required to use all the means of foreign policy to maintain a stable mode of relations of friendship and cooperation with the political forces situated south of Egypt. In Egypt's particular case, the southern flank of the country acquires maximum importance, because the sources of the Nile are located in this southern flank.

Our friendly forces in the south are subject to external dangers, as is the case with Sudan in the wake of the Libyan intervention in Chad. Therefore, support for these friendly forces must become the expected Egyptian foreign policy imperative.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister has announced that the policy pursued by Egypt toward the Chadian crisis is not aimed at intervening in the affairs of this state or at supporting one internal faction against another. However, the objective of Egypt's policy is to expel the Libyan military presence, which is backed by foreign forces, from Chad. In this respect Egypt is acting in coordination with its other African sisterly states which are endangered by this intervention. This action is being taken within the OAU framework and in accordance with the principles governing the international relations existing among the members of the African community.

AL-AKHBAR DISCUSSES SOVIET ROLE IN MAURITANIA

NC190851 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 19 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's AL-AKHBAR editorial entitled "The Soviets Propelling Their Agents," the paper says that Mauritania has suspended its diplomatic relations with Morocco while, at the same time, Algeria has declared that it intends to confront what it called the Moroccan expansionist policy.

Algeria's service of Soviet designs as one of four stooges of the rejectionist and confrontation front is well known. Therefore, Algeria's expeditious declaration that it intends to confront Morocco's policies indicates Algeria's complicity, namely that Algeria was behind the events that took place in Mauritania. These events were planned so Algeria could play its role in executing Soviet designs by creating bloody strife and conflicts in the Middle East. This is a well-known plan, including plots and intrigues, that has been drawn up in all its dimensions.

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say that the Soviets do not intend to wage a blatant war in the Middle East, which would entail mobilizing tens of thousands of their soldiers, similar to what they did in Afghanistan. Such a war would demand a big price. The Russians are also afraid that such a war would lead to a worldwide collision in which they would hold the lower hand.

Thus, the Soviet plan is intended to be carried out by stooges. Each stooge has his assigned role. Al-Asad of the 'Alawite Ba'th regime is carrying out his role in Lebanon and Jordan--drawing up plots and exporting them to other Arab countries and Al-Qadhdhafi has his assigned role in the African countries--similar to what we are witnessing in Chad and his stance in the Sudan and the African countries near Libya.

Algeria's role comes within a plan drawn up against Morocco and the desert war. Recently Algeria has expanded its role to include Mauritania within the sphere of conflicts.

The fourth stooge, the leader of South Yemen, has recently been carrying out the role of ambassador of this Soviet plan. Thus, he visited Moscow and conferred with its leaders; later, he spent a week conferring with Al-Asad. He also visited Benjedid in Algeria and Al-Qadhdhafi in Libya and returned home to carry out his role in this plan following Moscow's directives and instructions.

As part of the Soviet plan, an urgent report was broadcast yesterday by the Soviet TASS agency when it announced that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi will make an official visit to the Soviet Union, which will be set up later. TASS noted Al-Qadhdhafi's statement last month in which he announced that Libya will conclude a cooperation and friendship treaty with the Soviet Union, similar to the Syrian-Soviet treaty. One learns from this report that Al-Qadhdhafi has been asked to visit Moscow and that the aim of this visit is to conclude a friendship and cooperation treaty with the USSR, a treaty that gives the Soviets the right to enter any country any time and in any way they want. There is no doubt that the situation in Chad will be the subject of discussions between Al-Qadhdhafi and Moscow's leaders and that the discussions will also include Al-Qadhdhafi's next moves after Chad.

The paper says that this is the Soviet plan in all its dimensions and these are the roles of the stooges who were mobilized by Moscow to implement it. The Soviets, as is abundantly clear, are pushing these stooges today to carry out their executive role in order to create strife and conflicts in the whole area, which includes Africa and Asia as well as the heart of the Middle East. This is the secret of the stooges' activities nowadays and this is the secret behind the Soviet eagerness to conclude friendship and cooperation treaties with these stooges.

AL-AKHBAR adds that the events in Mauritania come within this framework, which has been swiftly affirmed by Algeria's behavior when it announced that it intends to confront what it called the Moroccan expansionist policies. One is also amazed to learn that the Mauritanian officials have made haste to accuse and condemn Morocco, without carrying out any investigations or discovering any evidence supporting their claims. Their only claim is that the soldiers who carried out the [coup] attempt were Moroccans. Why on earth is it not feasible that these soldiers were Libyans or Algerians who were clad in the garments of Moroccan soldiers? Al-Qadhdhafi has precedents in this respect. All reports indicate the movement in origin and aim is communist, created by the stooges in accordance with the USSR's demands. Therefore, we can affirm that the days ahead will witness many such dubious movements by the stooges and the communists.

MEETING ON IRAQ-IRAN WAR TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI

JN181614 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] New Delhi, (INA)--Iran and Iraq having agreed to welcome the non-aligned group of four at Tehran and Baghdad. The foreign ministers of India, Cuba, Zambia and PLO representative will hold a preparatory meeting here in the first week of April.

IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) correspondent was told by official sources the message to India from Iran and Iraq said they were looking forward to the visit of the group to discuss the situation there. Similar messages have been sent to other members of the group also.

The three foreign ministers and the head of the Political Department of the PLO had met in Geneva last week in an effort to bring about a cease-fire in the seven month-old Iran-Iraq war.

The Delhi meeting of the ministers would be preceded by talks among the officials of the group of four, who would come here two days earlier. The ministers meeting would last three days while the officials would meet for 2 days to take stock of the latest situation. INA learns the group would go from Delhi to Iran and then to Iraq but would not take any cease-fire proposals with them.

INA correspondent was told by an important source, no magic formula is likely to be evolved to resolve crisis, as the process of bringing peace is difficult and slow.

Meanwhile Mr. Olof Palme, U.N. secretary general representative, is keeping the group informed of his efforts.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 279

JN181737 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Communique No 279 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces Central Command on 18 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With confidence and high ability, our armed forces continued to deal blows to the racist Persian enemy and to inflict heavy losses on him. The following are the results of the activities carried out last night and today in the operational sectors:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One vehicle and one observation post were destroyed in the Nowsud area.
B. Ten dead, destruction of four infantry positions, three vehicles and two observation posts in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
C. Our advanced units engaged several enemy units supported by artillery and tanks in Gilan-e Gharb. A fierce battle followed during which the enemy sustained the following losses: 223 dead, destruction of 2 tanks, 1 vehicle and 5 guns.
D. One dead in the Sumar area.
E. One dead and the destruction of one observation post in the Mehran area.
F. One vehicle was destroyed in the Dezful area.
G. One gun was destroyed in the Shush area.
H. One of our units engaged an enemy infantry and armored unit in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area with all kinds of weapons. The enemy was forced to retreat after sustaining 118 dead and the destruction of 2 tanks, 2 vehicles and 2 guns.
I. One vehicle, one rocket launcher and one excavator were destroyed in the Ahvaz area.
J. Eleven dead and the destruction of two infantry positions, one tank and one excavator in the Abadan area.
K. Our air force attacked enemy tank concentrations in Gilan-e Gharb today. Our planes scored direct hits and returned safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 364 dead, 6 infantry positions, 5 tanks, 9 vehicles, 8 guns of various caliber, 1 rocket launcher, 2 excavators and 4 observation posts.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 29 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Several armored vehicles and one gun were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 March 1981

MAURITANIAN ENVOY SEES PRESIDENT, DEPARTS

Meeting With President

JN162122 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA)--President Saddam Husayn received here tonight Louleid Ould Wadded, Mauritanian water and housing minister and personal envoy of President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala. The discussion during this meeting dealt with relations between the two countries and means of developing them in the interest and for the well-being of the Arab people. The Mauritanian envoy arrived here this morning with a message for President Saddam Husayn from Mauritanian President Haydala.

Envoy's Departure

JN190807 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA)--Louleid Ould Wadded, Mauritanian water and housing minister and personal envoy of President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, left Baghdad for Nouakchott today at the end of a 4-day visit to Iraq. The Mauritanian envoy described his visit to Iraq as successful, adding that he conveyed a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother the Mauritanian president. He said that his talks with Iraqi officials dealt with the means to develop bilateral relations.

BAGHDAD COMMENTS ON KHOMEYNI'S 10-POINT STATEMENT

NC181503 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, oh deprived Iranian people, Iranian sisters and brothers, oh oppressed Muslims: The pharaoh has been defeated. He has forever lost his dream to rule the Islamic world. Nothing, not even colonialism's promises, can make him accept the fact that he will not be successful in his plans--to rule the Iranian people, the Muslims of the region and eventually the Muslims of the world. The old pharaoh has seen his defeat. He has seen his disgrace and is so distressed that even Reagan's promises cannot sooth his wounded heart.

Despite all the propaganda commotion the pharaoh of Tehran, the impostor Khomeyni has been unable to play his true role--the role specified by imperialism. He had come to conquer. He succeeded in the beginning but was unable to keep this up later. When the people woke up, the world realized his nature, international organizations realized the plot behind his regime and once the national and popular forces realized the truth, they stood up and started antiregime movements.

The ill-omened unity, present in the rule's beginning, forced despotism on Iran and was able to help the newly-risen pharaoh to take the whole of Iran into his bloody claws. Today this unity has started (?shaking) and the claws of the dictator of Tehran no longer have the strength to hold onto all of Iran and (?onto the country's establishments). The pharaoh has been defeated on all three fronts: in the war with Iraq, in confronting the wave of brave resistance by the dissatisfied masses, and in preventing the crumbling of the inauspicious unity within the leadership. On all these fronts the antipopular and anti-Iranian regime of Khomeyni--a regime alien to Islam--has received strong blows and the old pharaoh is unable to prevent its crumbling.

The imposter Khomeyni, the imam of the twentieth century, is now making his last efforts. In Khomeyni's speech--to which the people did not even listen, let alone observe--delivered yesterday at the end of his 40 days of a conjurer's and treacherous seclusion during which he was studying ways to escape, he issued a 10-point statement.

The impostor imam, Khomeyni, this representative of imperialism, at the beginning of his 10-point statement once again trying to fool the people, referred to "this delicate stage" which his non-Islamic republic is facing. In this statement the satan of Jamaran, while asking for an end to be put to the fight for power between the turbaned/cloaked and unturbaned/uncloaked officials of his wretched regime, apparently informs the public that "for the sake of protection of the country at this delicate moment" first "the yardstick is the Constitution." The old satan, having lost his dreams of ruling the Islamic world, does not want to give up the dictatorship in Iran and places the Constitution as a criterion--a Constitution the main indicator of which is the fascist principle of the "velayat-e vaqih" [use of "vaqih" meaning insolence, impudence instead of "faqih"]. This is an impudent principle under which the insolent jurisconsult can, with a mere gesture of the head meaning "yes" or "no" reject outright the demand of 36 million Iranians; it is a fascist principle on the basis of which the insolent master is the dictator of Iran and 36 million Iranians do not have the right to disagree with his orders.

Khomeyni does not hear the shouts reaching the walls of Niavaran and behind Jamaran. He has become blind and can neither see the clenched fists of the jobless workers nor the refugees who have lost everything in the war, or the farmers who possess nothing. Khomeyni's so-called Islamic Republic is crumbling from within. The Iranians have risen in unity and solidarity against the regime of the bloodsuckers, against the bloodthirsty hyenas dressed in the cloak of death. Each tree in Manzariyeh and Jamshidiyeh is being turned into gallows from which the sorcerer of Jamaran and his treacherous associates will hang and yet the dictator wants to (?fight)!

Iranians, hurry! Do not lose the opportunity. The regime is crumbling. From Jamaran to Zahedan, from Qom to Maku, from Birjand to Ilam, from Astara to Bushehr--everyone is waiting. Everyone is waiting for the sun of revenge to rise in order to overthrow the wretched regime of Khomeyni. Rise and unite! Join hands and revive the epic of 2 years ago. Go to the streets and shout! Call on the soldiers to leave their garrisons! Revive the memories of 2 years ago and rebel.

Start a constructive, national and popular rebellion, a rebellion to overthrow Khomeyni, Bani-Sadr and all the mercenaries and representatives of imperialism in Iran. Oh people of Iran, oh enraged and deprived people. Do not grant the oppressors of Tehran the opportunity. The shaykhs and mullahs have robbed you of everything. They have robbed your wealth. They have plundered all this. Do not wait. It is enough. How long are you going to be silent and for how much longer are you going to tolerate the rule of blood and fire, the rule of crime and treason? Break your (?modest) silence. Crush the rule of the charlatans and executioners. Rise and rebel. Unite and overthrow the rule of the clergy. Rise and end the rule of terror in Iran.

Oh people of Iran, oh people who are enraged by all the lies, deceit and impudence; unite and organize yourselves. Unite by oath and rise. Rise and rebel bravely to overthrow the arbitrary rule, to kill dictatorship. Rebel, oh Iranians! Rebellion shall save Iran and the peoples of Iran. Rebel and be glorified, oh Iranians!

BAGHDAD CLAIMS IRANIAN RULERS DREAD PEACE

GF151330 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The following question is being asked by everyone: Is the current chauvinist Hashemi [presumably Rafsanjani] regime capable of administering the country? Everyone is asking this question and they expect an answer. No one, however, has been able to get one. Yet, it is obvious that the Iranian rulers are incapable of doing anything. They are capable of neither running the state nor administering the people. It is common knowledge that those who are unable to run the state cannot sign pacts with other countries. In view of all this, therefore, the Iranian rulers dread the idea of talking peace with Iraq. The intention of these rulers is to stain the region with blood and reinforce their policy of hostility.

Currently, three different wars are being waged in Iran. The first being the war of crimes of Iranian rulers against the Iranian people. The second is the struggle that the Iranian rulers are waging against one another to usurp power and the third is the war against revolutionary Iraq--a war which is based on the grudge and enmity of (?PARS) chauvinism.

Six months have elapsed since the beginning of the war between Iraq and Iran. The loss and damage suffered by Iran during the past 6 months is common knowledge to all. Despite this, however, the Iranian rulers seem eager to prolong the war. This is why they have turned down Iraq's offer for peace. This is why they have opposed the efforts of the Islamic states and nonaligned countries and intensified their hostile policy.

No one has been able to establish who has real authority in Iran, a country with a chaotic administration where every mullah feels free to say whatever he pleases. None of the Iranian rulers is capable of deciding on ending the war. Everyone dreads the other. Each one of them desires to grab power and become an absolute dictator.

While Iran is being ruined and its people destroyed, the murderer impostors of Iran transfer money to European banks and live a luxurious and happy life. How long will this dirty and dark state of affairs continue in Iran? Struggling forces of Iran, join your hands together and rid your disaster-stricken people for this calamity. Victory is for those who struggle for justice and righteousness.

IRANIAN LEADERS URGED TO 'SEIZE CHANCE' FOR PEACE

NC180814 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers and sisters, children of Iran: This is the last chance for peace, and the Iranian leaders should seize it before it is lost. Otherwise, the Iraqi Army is fully (?equipped) to add more towns to the numerous towns and regions now under its occupation. Iraq is once again giving the ignorant rulers of Tehran a last chance to think a little and to come to their senses. Iraq is unaccustomed to threatening, but it does what it says. We think that the rulers of Qom and Tehran have understood this up to now, since they have gained experience from the past 6 months of war and by this ti[illegible] they should know Iraq's (?warring) nature.

As our leader Mr Saddam Husayn has pointed out, the opportunity still exists to prevent further bloodshed and more destruction because Iraq does not covet Iran's territory. Even if the war continues for many years and is not limited to just a few months, it is not possible for Iraq to ignore its just rights. We are confident that the Iranian Army and the Iranian people do not want the situation to become more tense, but Khomeyni and his (?ignorant) clique do not want peace to return to the region, Iranian-Iraqi relations to be based on a new basis, to respect the principles, values and equal rights of the two neighboring countries and to respect sovereignty and nonintervention in others' domestic affairs. The Iranian Army and people well understand that (?there is no basis) for Khomeyni's obstinacy, that Khomeyni and Bani-Sadr are so impotent as to not be able to achieve the smallest military success, and tht Khomeyni cannot break the international siege completely isolating himself. Therefore, continuing to be arrogant and obstinant cannot result in anything but a continuation of the war and defeat for Khomeyni and his clique, and heavy damage to Iran and the Iranian people.

God is our witness that we do not want this to happen to the Iranian people, and the world knows this very well too. But Khomeyni's arrogance and obstinacy and his trampling of our legal rights are the facts that have created the situation Iran is now facing.

If Iran's freedom seekers and patriots do not immediately start to work for the establishment of peace, Iran's domestic situation will become more complicated and the situation on the war fronts will become more dangerous. In all cases, Iran will be the one to suffer more losses and more of its towns, installations and villages will be destroyed. Therefore, why should peace, the prevention of bloodshed and the recognition of Iraq's just rights not replace all this?

Iranian brothers and sisters, the Iraqi Army is only waiting for orders from its president, Mr Saddam Husayn, to make Khomeyni and his ignorant clique understand the dangers resulting from their inopportune obstinacy and arrogance. At any rate, this is the last chance, and the person who warns is excused.

GULF STATES SAID AIDING IRAQ'S ANTI-IRAN CAMPAIGN

GF141739 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1625 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Contacts are quickly being held between Iraq and other Gulf countries on the ministerial, delegational and ordinary levels in the educational and economic fields. In this connection an Iraqi educational delegation visited Qatar today in a tour of Gulf countries. These contacts aim at creating a cultural barrier against the light of the Islamic revolution for the people of the Gulf in order to confront the escalating Islamic revolution in this region. These delegations will coordinate with the Gulf countries in the economic field to help Iraq improve its deteriorating situation following the war imposed on Iran by the infidel regime.

CLANDESTINE RADIO DENOUNCES HUSAYN VISIT TO UAE

GF141747 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1625 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] King Husayn will visit the UAE this month. He visited Iraq last month, but the aim of this visit has not been revealed. Nonetheless, these visits are an expression of the imperialist moves to save the shaky regime of Saddam from collapsing. They are also provocations for the Islamic Republic by raising the issue of the three islands. It is worth noting that King Husayn is the staunchest Arab supporter of the collapsing tribal regime. He has dispatched several shipments of aid to it in obedience to his imperialist masters.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH MALDIVES

JN181621 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Amman, 18 Mar (PETRA)--The Council of Ministers today approved the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Maldives. The Republic of Maldives is an Islamic state and a member of the Nonaligned Movement.

PAPER PREDICTS 'NEW JORDANIAN MOVE' IN ARAB CAUSE

JN190852 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Jordan's Commitments to Pan-Arab Issues and Continuation of Building," the newspaper AKHBAR AL-USBU' writes the following comments: The next few days will witness a new Jordanian move deeply linked with our pan-Arab issues. These issues always occupy Jordan's top priorities in terms of its duties and commitments. Furthermore, Jordan considers these issues as the axis of its tenacious and clear-cut stand in confronting all events and developments so that the Arab stand remains strong and capable of preserving and defending Arab rights.

Jordan's stand, which is committed to the Arab nation's resolutions, will never deviate from its course because it emanates from conviction and faith in the justice of the Arab nation's issues and because it is established on firm bases and mainstays. This stand has managed to thwart several plots and designs hatched against the Palestinian issue and our nation's fateful issues. This fact has prompted our nation's enemies to continue their plots against this country with the aim of weakening its stand and changing its policy for the sake of peddling their designs. This country, however, will remain strong, capable of aborting all the conspiratorial attempts, and will remain loyal and faithful in defense of the pan-Arab cause, which is a matter of commitment and trust as well as a matter of survival or death.

With the same determination and ability, Jordan continues its all-out march of work, building and development to achieve further cultural accomplishments under His Majesty King Husayn, who established the bases of the constructive work. These are bound to enable this country to participate positively in the service of the Arab nation and peoples.

Our pan-Arab march will continue and will never be obstructed by those who are twisting facts and are trying unjustly and oppressively to cast doubts on Jordan's pan-Arab stands. We tell these that we are preoccupied with work and building, but we are all alert in defense of our country against all plots. We, both leadership and people, will remain loyal and sincere to the Palestinian issue, defending and protecting it against all plots. At the same time, we will continue the march of work, building and progress.

AR-RA'Y SAYS SYRIA BEHIND KILLING IN FRG

JN180906 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Law of Cowards," the newspaper AR-RA'Y says: In cherished Syria, the hordes of the defense squads are flexing their muscles not in the Golan, which is only a few steps away, but in every house, planting terror, sadness and tears and arresting, torturing and humiliating the peaceful citizens.

These pawns of the factional sectarian regime in Damascus were not satisfied with wreaking havoc on Syria's soil only but gave free rein to their bloodstained hands and began hunting and killing their victims on other Arab and European soil. The latest of these victims was the wife of 'Isam al-'Attar, who was killed by these cowardly pawns in her home in Germany.

Yes, those who killed her are those who applauded the ruler of this regime at the ceremony on 8 March in a theater with locked doors. Those who killed here are those about whom he said that the blood in their hearts pumps the blood in his own. What sort of blood is this that runs in the veins of a factional ruler armed to the teeth with treacherous bullets that shed the blood of an unarmed Arab woman?

AR-RA'Y adds: We wonder: Did those who cried out for Jerusalem during this chaotic ceremony find the road to Jerusalem on the body of the Syrian woman? Did they feel an iota of honor and chivalry when the hands of their agents shot the hunted and unarmed woman? What does Islam, honor, dignity and Arabism say about them, they who chose to kill a defenseless woman in a foreign country whose sole crime was to immigrate and take her religion and Arabism away from these evil criminals?

Most probably this vile and heinous crime was transformed into a medal pinned on the chest of a coward by the leaders of the factional sectarian regime. Who knows? The leader of this regime might one day deliver a speech and brag about this crime, hailing it as one of his clique's progressive accomplishments.

AR-RA'Y concludes: It is the end of the members of this clique. This end had made them lose their senses and has exposed them for what they are before the nation and the world. They will not escape their end and punishment, when repentance will be in vain. They will not escape the day when the heroic Syrian people will tell the Arab nation that they have crushed the law of the cowards who assassinate defenseless women, shackled prisoners and honest citizens.

BEIRUT ON AL-QANTARAH SITUATION, ISRAELI FLIGHTS

NC181212 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] An atmosphere of cautious calm prevails throughout southern Lebanon, particularly in Al-Qantarah township, following its shelling by the border artillery in which 5 persons were killed, including a Nigerian officer and a soldier, and 34 others were wounded, including 20 Nigerian and 4 Lebanese soldiers. Extensive damage was caused to property and to the UN forces and [Lebanese] Army vehicles. Another Nigerian soldier, who was wounded during the shelling, has died, bringing the total killed to six.

Israeli warplanes today continued to overfly southern Lebanon in reconnaissance sorties creating a state of precaution for fear of a new aggression.

Reports of Withdrawal

NC181204 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] It was observed that the Lebanese Army unit, which entered Al-Qantarah last Friday, withdrew from the township at the orders of the Lebanese battalion command in Arzun.

A military source in Arzun has said that the decision was adopted in the desire to spare bloodshed in the town which has been subjected to shelling since the army force entered it. The shelling has moreover caused the majority of the citizens to seek shelter in remote towns and villages.

In a statement carried by the AFP, Maj ('Adnan Bisharah) outlined that the withdrawal of the army force was at the request of the UN forces command, since the Lebanese force was under its command. He said that the Lebanese force refrained from returning the fire of the border militia artillery and abided by the orders of the UN command. After the army withdrawal from Al-Qantarah, the UN command dispatched additional forces from the Irish, Netherlands and Guinea contingents to reinforce the Nigerian battalion deployed there.

Withdrawal Denied

NC190732 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] A UN spokesman has stated at the United Nations that soldiers of the Lebanese Army and units of the UN Netherlands, Irish and Nigerian contingents have been tactically deployed in Al-Qantarah as dictated by the operations. He denied that elements of the Lebanese Army have withdrawn.

Al-Wazzan Comments

NC181556 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today expressed surprise over reports in some newspapers on what they called Lebanese Army withdrawals in the south. He said that the fact is that the deployment of the army unit, which has been working for about 1 year with the UN forces, is the responsibility of the UN command.

However, regarding what has been decided on the entry of the army into the south, Al-Wazzan said that the arrangements are still being made and that no new Lebanese Army force has gone to the area where the UN forces are at present.

KHADDAM ON PAKISTANI PRISONERS, HIJACKERS

JN182144 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Jidda--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has stated that Syria granted temporary asylum to the Pakistani prisoners who were released recently following the hijacking of the Pakistani plane in order to alleviate the tribulation of the passengers who remained on the hijacked plane for 13 days.

According to news reports, Khaddam stated in press statements published in Jidda today that Syria has no intention of making this asylum permanent and that it is waiting for them to choose the country to which they wish to go. Khaddam also denied that Syria had granted political asylum to the three hijackers. Khaddam stated that Syria will not hand over the prisoners to Pakistan and that news reports that Pakistan had asked for this are groundless.

TV REPORTS ON MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD ACTION IN JORDAN

JN181936 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] The Jordanian city of 'Ajlin has been living in a state of anxiety and terror for for the past 3 days. Shops and official departments have closed and some sort of curfew has been imposed on the city leaving only soldiers in the streets.

Arrivals from Amman report that the involvement of the Jordanian regime in supporting the Muslim Brotherhood gang and participating in planning and implementing killings has begun to reflect negatively on the local situation in Jordan after the gang's members began carrying out crimes against each other in the Jordanian cities, as occurred in Az-Zarqa sometime ago, or against the sons of the Jordanian people, as was the case with the incident that took place in 'Ajlun last Monday morning provoking a state of anxiety and terror.

On Monday morning, 16 March 1981, three criminals belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood gang in Jordan killed two teachers, one from the Rabadi family and the other from the (Qayqin) family while they were on their way to school in 'Arjan village. Shaykh ('Awdah al-Qudah), who works in 'Ajlun mosque and is the brother of (Nuh al-Qudah), mufti of the Jordanian Armed Forces, led the criminals. Commenting on their odious crime, the killers said that those assassinated deserved to die because they were Christians and were distributing religious books.

In the wake of the crime, tension prevailed in 'Ajlun and the likelihood exists that clashes will occur between the clan of those who were killed and the clan of the killers. The armed forces swiftly took up positions in the streets of the city and are still there.

ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM PRAGUE

JN140853 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus, 14 Mar, (SANA)--Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur returned to Damascus from Prague yesterday at the end of a 3-day visit to Czechoslovakia. In a statement on arrival, Qaddur said that his talks with the Czechoslovak foreign affairs minister and other officials dealt with a review of the current situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations. He added: Viewpoints on all the topics discussed were identical.

OFFICIALS STATE POSITIONS ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

Begin Policy Decision

TA181958 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Menahem Begin has decided to implement a policy of freezing and calming the situation in southern Lebanon to make possible a political solution to the problem created in the area: the deployment of Lebanese Army troops in Major Haddad's enclave.

As part of this policy, the chief of staff conferred with Major Haddad and the prime minister asked Haddad to make a good-will gesture toward the Lebanese. Here is our military correspondent, 'Amiram Nir,' on the Israeli policy following the firing incident 2 days ago:

The situation in the area must be relaxed by all means and each spark of fire that might flare up must be extinguished. This was the decision made by Prime Minister and Defense Minister Menahem Begin following the incident in southern Lebanon 2 days ago. The idea is to prevent the creation of new incidents and especially to make possible the political solution of the problem of the Lebanese soldiers.

It is within the framework of this proposed forced calm that a letter of apology was sent yesterday from the chief of staff to the UNIFIL commander. General Callaghan said he considered returning it to the sender because he did not believe what was written in it was sincere. As part of this soothing policy, the prime minister talked yesterday in Qiryat Shemona about Israel's intention to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and it is within this framework that Mr Begin also ordered the chief of staff to meet with Major Haddad for a frank talk. Lieutenant General Eytan made it clear to Haddad that Israel demands avoidance of incidents like the one that happened in Al-Qantarah. Haddad, for his part, explained that the incident broke out because Lebanese Army soldiers had tried to take away the arms of the militiamen in the village. The chief of staff stated that if maintenance of peace and quiet requires that Haddad avoid returning to Al-Qantarah, he should do so.

This morning the prime minister learned that 2 days ago, in the course of the incident, Major Haddad captured a Lebanese battalion ambulance with an army physician, a medical orderly and two soldiers. Mr Begin transmitted a request to Haddad to release the captives at once as a good-will gesture to ease the tension.

To sum up, the activities in the last 36 hours are attempts to bring about--one could almost say at all costs--stability and tranquillity in the region to create fertile ground for political moves.

The only event deviating from this general atmosphere was the meeting held this afternoon between the commander of the northern command and the UNIFIL commander at the latter's initiative. General Callaghan, reading from a prepared statement, raised four demands: military freedom for the UN troops to act within the territory of the [Christian] enclaves; removal of IDF units from that area; removal of Haddad's men from four of Haddad's footholds and granting extraterritorial status to UN headquarters in An-Naqurah. Major General Ben-Gal rejected the four demands. The conversation became extremely tense. Callaghan said: I intend to bring more Lebanese units to the eastern part of the enclaves as well. Ben-Gal replied: This will be a provocation and Haddad might open fire. Callaghan: We have missiles and tanks and we will fight him. Ben-Gal: Would you like to see UNIFIL soldiers being killed? Callaghan: This is not important; we are professional soldiers and this is part of our job.

The meeting was brief and Callaghan immediately took off for Beirut.

With such conflicting positions, will it be possible to maintain quiet in southern Lebanon? One way or the other, this is what the success of the political solution depends on.

Tzipori Comment

TA190634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The IDF has warned the UNIFIL commanders against trying to change the situation in southern Lebanon. The deterioration along the border occurred following the advance of the Lebanese forces southward and the increasing friction between them and Maj Sa'd Haddad's forces. The commander of the northern command reacted to this gravely and Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori also told us: We shall not put up with this.

[Begin recording] [Tzipori] The State of Israel will not (?allow the violation of) the status quo in southern Lebanon, nor will it desert Haddad, nor will it make it possible for terrorists to move in the direction of the Israeli border. These are the principles we have acted upon and which we will continue to follow. Facts are self-evident. With all due respect to the UNIFIL forces that try to attack the terrorists issue--unsuccessfully to my great regret--we handed southern Lebanon to the UNIFIL forces clear of terrorists while today there are hundreds of terrorists there, in areas under UNIFIL responsibility. We will surely not allow additional hundreds of terrorists to reach the area near the border of Israel. I assume we will have discussions with UNIFIL commanders as well, and will act for the safety of the inhabitants of Israel, of the Galilee, according to the goals and responsibility of the Israeli Government. [end recording]

Haddad Remarks

TA171900 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Major Sa'd Haddad, commander of the south Lebanese militia, says the death of the two UNIFIL soldiers yesterday was an accident and that he is very sorry they were killed. Major Haddad told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that he had been trying to stop the advance of Lebanese Army units, which were in the Al-Qantarah area, at the gates of what he called free Lebanon. There was no intention to involve UN soldiers, he said, and he had even asked UNIFIL Commander General Callaghan to keep UN soldiers away from the Lebanese Army units.

[Begin recording] [Haddad] I have nothing against any UN soldiers, even that they are not able to stop infiltration 100 percent. I explained to them, by their face, I don't blame them, because I know they are not able to stop infiltration 100 percent. My problem is with the so-called Lebanese Army, not with them. Accidentally, they got killed--we were not aiming to kill UN soldiers. We know very well that this army is not able to stop the terrorists; on the contrary, the [word indistinct] of the army will facilitate the coming of the terrorists, and we have the example of many places inside the UN area. Where there is Lebanese Army, there are beside them terrorists. They want little by little to control our area. What that means--that means he will give it sooner or later, afterwards, to the PLO; and afterwards the Syrians will take over and Lebanon will be annexed to Syria--all Lebanon will be the strongest and biggest base of terrorism in all the world and afterwards it will be catastrophe. [end recording]

Callaghan, Haddad Comments

TA171946 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Excerpt] UNIFIL Commander William Callaghan has said that his men will not hesitate to use arms to defend themselves if they are attacked again. In view of violent actions such as that in which the two Nigerian soldiers in UNIFIL were killed yesterday, the force's 6,000 soldiers have no choice but to defend themselves, Callaghan stressed. Reporters note that Callaghan's remarks represent a far tougher stance than that adopted by his predecessor in the post, General Erskine.

In the meantime, militia commander Maj Sa'd Haddad has said that if the world pushes his people in southern Lebanon into desperate straits, there will be mass suicides among the Christians. However, Haddad stressed, the Christians will not die alone.

Commander Meets Callaghan

TA181344 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] The commander of the northern Command, Maj Gen Avigdor Ben-Gal, today met with UNIFIL Commander Gen William Callaghan, at the latter's urgent request. General Callaghan demanded an end to the IDF's presence in southern Lebanon and demanded also that the IDF not provide assistance in that area and that Haddad's forces withdraw from four positions they had seized on routes used by the terrorists in infiltration attempts southward.

The commander of the northern command rejected the UNIFIL commander's requests and informed him of the danger that would ensue from a change in the status quo in the region. He said infiltration attempts had brought about the unfortunate flareup between Major Haddad's forces and the Nigerian battalion in the UN force. Our military correspondent reports that the meeting took place in a highly tense atmosphere, with the UNIFIL commander showing an unsympathetic approach.

Peres Statement

TA171227 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Mar 81 p 1

[By U.S. correspondent Gid'on Samet]

[Excerpt] Washington, 16 Mar--Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has said that if the Alignment assumed power it would restrict IDF operations in Lebanon to cases when Israel has previous confirmation of a planned terrorist action. Peres made these remarks in a comprehensive program on PLO terrorism which will soon be broadcast by ABC. Interviewed on the same program, the PLO representative at the United Nations, Labib at-Tarzai, confirmed that the PLO received Soviet assistance for its military activities.

EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED IN CAIRO

TA181106 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Mar 81 p 17

[Interview of Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Kamal Hasan 'Ali by Cairo correspondent 'Oded Granot in Cairo a few hours before 'Ali's departure for Europe on 17 March]

[Excerpt] There have been press reports about the activity of a West German firm which is engaged in missile development in Libya. Have you taken a stand on this issue? Have you been in contact with the West Germans, and are you convinced that what is involved is only the development and testing of missiles for satellite launching?

[Answer] We raised this matter with West German Foreign Ministers Hans-Dietrich Genscher during his recent visit to Egypt. I believe that the West German Government is evincing considerable interest in the activity of this firm in Libya--in the missile tests and in the intentions behind them. We are interested in the cessation of the company's activity, although it is not clear whether the German Government can effect this. These tests constitute a danger to the entire region, because it is possible that this is not a project confined to the Libyan Government alone but a far larger and more complex plan. Nor do we believe that these are tests for satellites only.

[Question] In his guidelines for the visit of the U.S. secretary of state to Cairo, President as-Sadat stressed that Egypt must speak with General Haig about increasing U.S. military aid to Egypt. Since there are now arms deals in various stages of implementation, do you intend to request that we sign new deals?

[Answer] In this sphere there no longer exists a question of balance between Egypt and Israel, or between Israel and the Arab world. We are surrounded by dangers and Egypt has a role in the defense of Sudan, with reference to Chad, and more. All this necessitates more and more arms for the Egyptian Army and the rate of supply from the United States is not the rate we require.

[Question] Have the Western European countries you will be visiting agreed in principle to have their soldiers take part in the multinational supervisory force in Sinai? Why is Egypt insisting that the size of the supervisory force not exceed 2,000 troops? How much time will be required to complete the discussions to obtain an agreement on this matter? What are the main subjects that have to be discussed regarding the creation of the force?

[Answer] We have had some contacts with European countries that took part in the past UN forces in the Middle East. They know the area and the conditions. If they did this in the past, when a state of war prevailed, why should they not dispatch forces now, when there are relations of friendship and normalization? I have conveyed an identical message to the ambassadors of several European countries in Cairo and I shall be discussing the matter with their governments during my visits to Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark.

I can assure you that even without the force we could live together, because the October war was the last war. Whether the force was 2,000, 3,000 or 4,000 troops does not matter; but a large number of personnel in the force will not be more beneficial--this will only lead to large expenditures for both sides.

We must decide on the makeup [of the force], on the participation of countries in rotation, for specific periods of time. I believe that an agreement on the establishment of the force can be reached within 3 months.

[Question] It has been reported that the confirmation of the normalization agreements by the Egyptian parliament is being delayed, among other reasons, due to the opposition of delegates on the various committees. When, in your estimation, will the agreements be ratified?

[Answer] This week the committee approved the transport, communications and trade agreements. It is true that some delegates expressed opposition because of Israel's behavior on the autonomy issue and because of its activity in the territories. However, the government's stand is that this is not related to the implementation of the agreements and I expect that parliament will approve all the agreements in the current sitting, which concludes in May.

[Question] Is a tripartite meeting between the leaders of Egypt, Israel and the United States after the Israeli elections a necessary condition for progress to be made in the autonomy negotiations?

[Answer] We must reach joint understanding on the meaning of the term full autonomy before any tripartite summit between the leaders of Egypt, Israel and the United States. After the Israeli elections, whether the Begin administration stays in power or a new administration takes office, this subject will have to be discussed anew.

[Question] Could you say a few words to sum up the term of Israel's ambassador to Egypt?

[Answer] He did good work as Israel's first ambassador to Egypt and worked as best he could to form and crystallize relations. He formed relations with many Egyptians and showed understanding for difficulties.

[Question] Is it possible, in your estimation, to accelerate the pace of normalization? Is Egypt satisfied with the present pace?

[Answer] In my view, normalization is developing on a good basis and on a solid footing. In 5 months, trade went from zero to $10 million, and 25,000 Israelis have visited Cairo.

[Question] Is Israel's participation in the Cairo international fair still an unusual event?

[Answer] Israel will be invited to every international exhibition or fair held in Egypt. This is the policy of the Government of Egypt.

SHAMIR VIEWS EUROPEAN MIDEAST INITIATIVE

TA171127 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Mar 81 p 3

[Text] Speaking to the heads of his ministry, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday said that the EEC countries have persisted in their separate political initiative in the Middle East.

Shamir expressed his belief that upon the appointment of British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington as president of the EEC Council of Foreign Ministers, the European political initiative regarding the Middle East will gather further momentum. It emerged from his remarks that Shamir believed that the EEC countries do not attach large importance to the U.S. recommendation to refrain from independent political activity in the Middle East.

Shamir added that in his talks with the heads of the Mexican administration he had been told that Mexico's relations with various international elements (the Arab countries) would not have an impact on its friendly relations with Israel.

The foreign minister analyzed U.S. policy toward Israel and Saudi Arabia in the same vein of his political statement to the Knesset yesterday. Shamir reiterated the remarks he heard during his visit in Washington that "Israel has a friend at the White House."

ALGERIA

APS VIEWS MOROCCO'S 'EXPANSIONIST TEND NCIES'

LD181318 Algiers APS in English 1100 GMT 18 Mar 81

["Coup: From Failure to Doom..."--APS headline]

[Text] Algiers, 18 Mar (APS)--The coup d'etat attempt against Mauritania originated in Rabat clearly confirm the Moroccan monarchist regime's expansionist tendencies, (? and heightens) the tension already prevailing in north-west Africa following the king's invasion of the Sahraui territory.

This coup d'etat attempt is in narrow connection with the Moroccan regime's failed expansionist adventure in the Western Sahara [word indistinct] the king cannot begrudge Mauritania's withdrawal from the war it had been lured into while under Mokhtar Ould Daddah. This attempt to destabilize Mauritania and drag it back in the unjust war waged to the Sahraui people is only a first stage--for the Moroccan regime's intents concerning the Mauritanian territory are well known. This perfectly fitting within the king's historical obsession with the "great Moroccan empire." [sentence as received]

This doomed attempt is the result of a colonialist kind of expedition similar to those undertaken against Vietnam, Lebanon and in austral Africa where the so-called "right to pursuit"--a concept dear to Rabat's heart--has been unsuccessfully applied.

The Moroccan regime well performs the (?destabilizing) tasks assigned to it by the powers that arm and finance it.

The king's participation in the 1977 aggression against the government of another African country--Benin--bears witness of the bellicosity of the Moroccan regime. It [word indistinct] assessed (?by) an international investigating committee that the mercenaries who led the attack against Benin had trained in Morocco.

Thus, both the aggression against Benin and the last attempt to destabilize Mauritania express a blatant will to interfere in the people's domestic affairs. Rabat has been in battle-dress ever since the invasion of the Western Sahara in 1975, and this stubborn policy inflicts heavy damages in casualties and results in a social and economic malaise which poisons the atmosphere in north-west (?Africa).

APS CITES MAURITANIAN COMMENTS ON MOROCCAN ACTIONS

LD181556 Algiers APS in English 1145 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 18 Mar (APS)--"(?The action) carried out two days ago (?by a commando) trained and equipped by the Moroccan Kingdom, is the logical outcome of the mad campaign led not long ago by Moroccan propaganda officers, to destabilize our country, and consequently all the region," the Mauritanian news agency, "AMP", yesterday declared in a commentary, after a Moroccan coup d'etat was aborted.

"Thus, the commentator says, it is our right to wonder (?about) causes which have [word indistinct] the Moroccan Kingdom to act this way. Before throwing light on shady sides of this thoughtless action, we first of all say that yesterday's Moroccan Government's denials are no more than swindles aimed at misleading international public opinion.

For all [words indistinct] eye-witnessed casualties caused by the commando, they could not believe the Moroccan Government's denials.

As for us, "AMP" indicates, it is no more than the issue of the campaign led for a while by Moroccan media which endlessly carried out stream of lies against our national sovereignty, sometimes under the form of accusations, others, under the form of threats."

Examining role of Moroccan political parties in power, "AMP" writes "this coalition made it its, [as received] the obligation to serve as an instrument of oppression inside Morocco, and of expansionism outside. Parties adopted same strategy, that's to say support the throne, on condition that a 'so-called' democracy be established, and share state's responsibilities to the prejudice of Moroccan people's interests".

"To reach this goal and divert Moroccan masses from real problems, the kingdom launched the slogan 'a danger does exist and is threatening Morocco's interests and the Moroccan territorial integrity'. The commentator adds.

"AMP" then quotes two books "The Challenge" and "The Moroccan Kingdom in Its Historical Borders" as documents constituting irrefutable proves of Moroccan expansionism with the particularity that everybody does know that these assertions in no way have any historical background.

All this, the commentary goes on saying, shows that the throne and its supporters are isolated inside and outside their borders, and that Moroccan hegemonist aims are carried out everytime Mauritania strengthens her independence for and by herself.

"AMP" concludes "We will tell some and others, that Mauritania is not the weakest link in the chain in the region and a toy everybody can play with." On the contrary, her leaders are conscious of their national rights and responsibilities vis a vis current problems in the region. The Mauritanian people and his armed forces are capable of taking up the challenge and defend our territory against any expansionist regime, particularly, the Moroccan one."

BENDJEDID SEES OFFICIALS RETURNING FROM MAURITANIA

LD190235 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN party, at presidential headquarters yesterday received Dr Ahmad Talib al-Ibrahimi, minister in the Presidency of the Republic, and Lt Col al-Arbi Bilkhayr, permanent secretary to the Supreme Security Council, after they returned from Nouakchott. They had gone there the day before yesterday aboard a special plane on an assignment for the president of the republic.

LIBYA

POSSIBLE FRENCH ROLE IN MAURITANIAN AFFAIR NOTED

LD181755 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Paris, 18 Mar (JANA)--The JANA Paris correspondent says that political observers in France are wondering about the dimensions of the role which France played in the abortive coup in Mauritania. The correspondent adds that these observers recall the statements made by the king of Morocco during his visit to France, in particular those relating to taking measures against Mauritania because of its stance in support of the struggle of the Saharan people. These observers believe that France had a hand in this attempt, especially because those who staged the coup came from the territory of Senegal, which is pro-French.

Nouakchott, 18 Mar (JANA)--A few hours before the abortive coup which was engineered and financed by the Moroccan regime against Mauritania, the Mauritanian authorities discovered a French spy plane; its crew was captured. Responsible sources in Nouakchott said that following interrogation of the French spy plane's crew it became clear that the plane was given the task of supporting those involved in the coup, who were hirelings of the Moroccan regime.

AL-QADHDHAFI TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR

LD182350 Tripoli JANA in English 1909 GMT 18 Mar 81

["Libyan-Soviet Press Statement"--JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Mar (JANA)--The following statement was issued today in Tripoli and Moscow:

"At the invitation of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government, the leader will pay an official cordial visit to the Soviet Union. This visit comes because of the desire of both sides to consolidate and develop the friendly relations between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the U.S.S.R.".

It is worth noting that the fourth meeting of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front's leaders, which was held in Tripoli from 26 to 29 Jamadi al-Oula 1389 (12-15 April 1980), had decided that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great al-Fatah Revolution, would contact the Soviet Union on the front's behalf in order to increase the military and political backing for the front, redress the military and political balance of forces in the region, and strengthen and deepen relations between the Soviet Union and the front.

MAURITANIA

MATERIALS PERTAINING TO 16 MAR COUP ATTEMPT

Responsibility Claim

NC181256 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Paris, 18 Mar (AFP)--A Mauritanian opposition group claimed sole responsibility in a communique issued here today for an "uprising" in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott on Monday, which it stated was put down by Western Sahara Polisario guerrillas.

The opposition group, the Alliance for a Democratic Mauritania (ADM), said the "uprising" was carried out by Mauritania's "sole democratic forces without any aid or support from any other country whatsoever."

Authorities in Nouakchott have blamed Morocco for the coup, in which seven people were reported killed and two others wounded after two commando groups in landrovers tried to seize the Presidency and army headquarters.

ADM said that its officers and soldiers battled heroically for more than four hours against heavily armed Polisario units which were close to Nouakchott, and which intervened in the first half-hour of fighting. It was "thus established," according to the communque, that the Mauritanian regime owed its survival to "the weapons of Polisario and its Libyan masters."

A military committee for national salvation has ruled Mauritania since the overthrow of former President Mokhtar Ould Daddah in July 1978.

Calling on the Mauritanian people, and its "valiant" military, to continue the struggle, ADM noted that it had often affirmed that Mauritania was "occupied by the Polisario army on the orders" of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Nouakchott, it added, was "in the hands of their henchmen." The ADM would not let up until it had overthrown "the foreign power" in Mauritania, the communique said.

Any attack on Mauritania would be considered an attack on Libya, it added.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had met in Tripoli with Lieutenant-Commander Dahane Ould Ahmed Mahmoud, a member of the Mauritanian Military Committee for National Salvation who arrived there on Sunday, it said.

Haydala Address on Operation

LD182352 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Announcer-read "translation" of address to the nation by Mauritanian President and Chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala on 18 March; original language of address not identified--place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God's blessings on his gracious prophet, Mauritanian men and women. Our gallant people have undergone a painful ordeal at the hands of Moroccan expansionism and domination when a band of mercenaries, under the leadership of former traitorous and servile officers, were recruited by the royal court of Morocco to stage a futile attempt to overthrow the regime in our country by way of a mean and cunning aggression against our homeland.

Every compatriot should realize that this is only the first stage of a carefully laid out plot. Every compatriot should also know that the road of honor and independence is fraught with dangers. The aggression of 16 March clearly proves that the Moroccan Kingdom has not at any time abandoned its expansionist ambitions in our country. Thus, since 1957, the declared aim of the Moroccan royalist throne has been to extend Moroccan frontiers so that they embrace all Mauritanian territory right up to the town of Sangui in the south. It is common knowledge that the unlawful occupation of the Western Sahara is nothing other than a step along this road.

Whatever the case may be you can be assured that the provocations and the campaigns of intimidation and Rabat's aggression will not deflect the national will away from the road it chose on 10 July 1978 to build a dignified respected and free Mauritanian state. Indeed, these attempts, provocations and threats will, on the contrary, contribute to strengthening our unshakable will to make more efforts and more sacrifices to attain this basic aim.

In the name of the Military Committee for National Salvation, and relying on your lofty patriotic sense and your national duties, I ask you to remain vigilant to foil the attacks and plots and stand against all the expansionist Moroccan attacks against the sanctity of our country and our sovereignty and national independence.

My dear compatriots, here is a resume of how this aggression took place against our country. I will tackle this in three stages: first, the preparation; second, the movement; and third, the implementation.

The elements which took part in the attack were formed and trained at the (Bangarief) military base near Marrakech in Morocco. The task of forming these elements was assigned to a column of the sixth Moroccan military sector and two groups of military engineers. The operation was supervised by two officers from Moroccan intelligence, and their names are Ibn Sulayman and Hammudi.

The commandos were (?trained) by Captain Sharqawi, Lieutenant Ahmad, Lieutenant Allal, Corporal at-Tayyib, Corporal Re ert and First Lieutenant Abd ar-Rahim.

Second, the movement: The members of the gang moved in three groups to reach Dakar via Paris. The first group left Morocco on 11 March, the second on 12 March and the third on 13 March 1981.

The last group arrived in Dakar on 15 March 1981 on board a plane belonging to the French airlines. The plane landed at Dakar airport at 2230. Each group was accompanied by a Moroccan officer. For example, the last group was accompanied by the Moroccan officer Hafiz, who is nicknamed (Shadid). All the commandos were carrying false Moroccan passports when they reached Senegalese territory. In the meantime, the French authorities expelled the man named Ahamdou 'Ali--he is one of the members of the third group--on the pretext that he was carrying false Moroccan travel documents.

Former Colonel Abdel Kader traveled under the alias of Kamil Mustafa, while Ahmad Salim Ould Sidi was known as Tuhami Ahmad, at the time when former lieutenant [name indistinct] Mustafa was known as Salman Abdallah, and so forth. [sentence as heard] The trained NCO Ibrahim (al-La'lu) used the name of Tabani Mamouri, who holds passport number [number indistinct]. The movement and transport of the commandos took place under the supervision of the Moroccan officers Ibn Sulayman and Hammudi. When they arrived in Dakar the commando units used the same method to reach the Senegalese-Mauritanian territories. At Dakar airport they were met by two BMW cars, driven by Moroccan officers, which transported them in a Peugot 404 pickup truck to Richard Toll town. From there they were transported to the meeting point--two tents erected 125 kms southeast of Richard Toll--by a truck driven by a Senegalese driver called (Sanbanjel). The last group arrived at the meeting point on 15 March 1981 at 0600. Instructions and tasks were issued to the members of the gang by former Colonel Kader, Ahmad Salim Ould Sidi and Haba Ould Muhammad (Fal). It is worth mentioning that the weapons were transported through the diplomatic pouch onboard Air Maroc. On 15 March 1981 at 0300 all members of the commando left the meeting point in two trucks--a Peugot 504 and a 404--and at 0700 they arrived on the shores of the Senegal River at the crossing point situated 20 km west of the town of Podor.

On the other side of the river, of the Mauritanian border, Landrover vehicles were waiting [words indistinct]. At 2130 the commandos took the Nouakchott road via Boutilimit and arrived in the town of [name indistinct] at 0600. There they stopped for a few hours before moving on to the final destination, Nouakchott. The operation began at 1000.

The second stage of execution:

The [word indistinct] scenario includes two probabilities. First probability: The Military Committee for National Salvation being in session [words indistinct] members of this committee, the prime minister and his aides, in the first instance. This was to be followed by taking control of the higher command of the army and the radio station, and then the broadcasting of statements.

Second probability: If the Military Committee was not in session, the headquarters of the government and the Presidency would be taken over simultaneously and the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and the prime minister would be arrested by the two units led by former Colonel Abdel Kader and former Major Ahmed Salim. This was the first stage. The second stage was to control the headquarters of the army and the radio by broadcasting statements. Since the Military Committee was not in session on 16 March 1981, the gang executed the second probability.

The results of the operation were as follows:

The chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation was not arrested nor was the prime minister. The headquarters of the army and the radio station were not taken over.

All members of the commando were captured. However, this barbaric operation by the mercenaries of Rabat resulted in the death of innocent compatriots, who fell in the arena of honor and dignity in defense of our beloved country. On this painful occasion the Military Committee for National Salvation and the government join me in conveying our most profound heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs for the national cause. I implore God to bestow mercy on them and to make paradise their abode.

Ministerial Council Meeting

AB182123 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] The ministerial council held an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday, 17 March 1981, under the chairmanship of Mr Bneijara, prime minister and head of government. The council examined only one issue--that of the cowardly aggression perpetrated against our country by the Moroccan royal regime. The prime minister made a detailed report to the government on the way this operation, an operation which was prepared by the Moroccan royal government, was organized and launched. As actors, it chose some former convicts as mercenaries, who decided to betray their people to serve the sordid aims of the Moroccan monarchy, which is soiled by the blood of anticolonialist patriots and freedom fighters.

The government viewed this aggression in its real framework, that of permanent and objective antagonism between Morocco's expansionism and the firm determination of our people for independence, and it reaffirmed the appropriateness of the explanations which it made to the Mauritanian people and the international community in its communique of 12 March 1981.

On this exceptional occasion, the government reiterates the need for the Mauritanian people to close ranks and fight with courage and determination in order to protect their independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and honor flouted by the dying royal regime. It urges all patriots and all active elements of the country to get together in this special phase our country, to redouble their vigilance and organize themselves more effectively and to stand by the national leadership in order to stop the enemies of our country who are, from abroad, the Moroccan expansionism and, internally, (?the toppled) regime still infiltrated among us.

The ministerial council commended the patriotic feeling of our people and our armed forces that foiled the cowardly and perfidious aggression of 16 March. In doing so, our people and armed forces once again proved their unflagging support of the noble ideals of the 10 July movement.

For its part, the government reiterates its determination to fight for our independence and national sovereignty and for the triumph of the sacred principles of the 10 July movement, which is the true expression of the aspirations of all Mauritanian people. The government will leave no stone unturned and back down before no difficulty to ensure that Mauritania will live free and independent.

In particular, it will not hesitate, starting from now, to hit Moroccan agents and the partisans and accomplices of the Alliance for a Free Mauritania, whatever impunity and indulgence they may have enjoyed so far. The actors and accomplices of the cowardly aggression of 16 March will especially be punished in proportion to the extent of their crimes.

The council also designed all the measures to carry on the actions already undertaken at the OAU, the Arab League and the UN in order to obtain the condemnation by all justice- and peace-loving countries of the cowardly aggression.

Also, it wants to clarify any ambiguity and confusion which certain mass media are trying to throw on the relations between Mauritania and the brotherly country of Senegal by using the circumstances under which Morocco made use of the diplomatic immunity of its embassy in Dakar to launch its aggression from the Senegalese territory. The available information which has been obtained during the interrogation of the mercenaries shows clearly that the Senegalese Government and authorities are not al all involved in the base plot. Even though there have been subordinate accomplices in Senegal, these were won over by the Moroccan Embassy in Dakar, which received the mercenaries upon their arrival in Dakar. They were presented as Moroccan nationals and were transferred in cars of the Moroccan Embassy to Saint-Louis where they were taken in charge by traitor [Aba Ould Mahomed Ba), who gathered them at his camping house near (Sas Toll). So Morocco not only attacked Mauritania, but also violated Senegalese national territory in the hope of jeopardizing Senegal-Mauritania relations. Neither country will fall into the trap. The Mauritanian Government cannot question the good will and the sincerity of Senegal.

The government also expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the martyrs killed defending their fatherland, and gives them assurances of the solicitude of the national leadership and all the people of Mauritania. Three days of national mourning have been decreed to honor the memory of the patriots who died defending the fatherland.

Lastly, all measures which have been made necessary by the situation were taken by government.

Arab League Informed

AB190900 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The Mauritanian ambassador to the Arab League has informed the league's secretary general, Mr Chedli Klibi, about Morocco's barbaric aggression against our country. During their discussions, the ambassador explained in detail the development of the operation organized by King Hassan II with the aim of overthrowing the national leadership and placing our country under his control.

Deportation of Moroccans

JN190804 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 19 Mar (INA)--The Mauritanian Government has decided to deport all the Moroccan diplomats from Mauritania next Saturday at the latest. The Mauritanian press agency reports that the Mauritanian Government has pledged to insure the safety and security of the Moroccan nationals so long as they are in Mauritania.

The Mauritanian Government severed its diplomatic relations with Morocco 2 days ago after accusing it of participating in the abortive coup attempt last Monday.

OFFICIAL RETURNS FROM MISSION TO ALGERIA, LIBYA

AB182141 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Lt Cdr (Dahan Dahani Mahmoud), member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and permanent secretary of the committee, returned to Nouakchott this morning from Algiers and Tripoli, where he delivered two messages from Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, to the Algerian president, Chadli Bendjedid, and the Libyan chief, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

In a statement to the Mauritanian press agency, the permanent secretary of the committee pointed out that our country was aware of the fact that Morocco has taken a new step in its aggressive policy directed against Mauritania.

He also said that this cowardly Moroccan attack on our country took place after the message was delivered to President Chadli Bendjedid thus proving that what we said took place rapidly.

He added that Algeria and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah expressed their support for Mauritania in two communiques issued by their respective governments. They said that they considered any attack on our country as an attack on their own countries.

Mauritania will above all depend on its own strength before seeking the help of its brothers, if necessary, to defend its national independence, he concluded.

MOROCCO

REACTIONS TO MAURITANIAN CHARGES ON COUP ATTEMPT

Severance of Relations

LD182212 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Abderrahmane Baddou, secretary of state for foreign affairs, received today Muhammad al-Mukhtar Ould Tul Amru, charge d'affairs of the Embassy of Mauritania in Rabat, and told him of the decision of his majesty's government to sever diplomatic relations with his country, on the basis of reciprocity.

Dakar Ambassador's Denial

LD191134 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 19 Mar (MAP)--Mr Ahmed Hammoud, Moroccan ambassador in Dakar, has categorically denied the accusations and allegations broadcast by Nouakchott radio in its 1200 newscast yesterday, in which it alleged that the Moroccan Embassy in Dakar had received the commandos who on Monday attacked Nouakchott and transported them by car to Saint-Louis.

Mauritanian Exiles' Statement

LD190040 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] The Alliance for Democratic Mauritania issued in Paris today a statement on the attempted coup in Nouakchott, which described the attempt as an uprising by a coup of the national army. In this context the alliance confirms that the Monday uprising was carried out by the Mauritanian national forces alone without any external help or support. A number of senior army officers took part in the attempt. The statement says that for more than 4 hours the officers, NCO's and soldiers bravely fought against heavily armed units of the Polisario, which were stationed near Nouakchott and which intervened against the uprising from the first 1/2 hour after the start of the clashes. The statement goes on to read: Thus it has become clear to all now that the regime of Haydala, Boukreiss and Bneijara owes its existence to the arms of the Polisario and its Libyan masters and that international public opinion will today be clearly convinced with what we repeated some months ago: that the [word indistinct] part of Mauritania, represented in the regions where uranium and iron mines are situated and the regions of maritime fishing, are occupied by the Polisario forces in accordance with the orders of Al-Qadhdhafi and that Nouakchott is in the hands of their agents Haydala, Boukreiss and Bneijara.

It is worth mentioning that this region, which is the biggest and richest country, is demanded openly by the Polisario [despite] the fact that it indisputably belongs to Mauritanian territory, as was recognized internationally in 1960. Therefore, the alliance calls on the Mauritanian people with all its groups and tribes, and in particular its senior officers, NCO's and soldiers, to continue the struggle for bringing down the dictatorial regime in Nouakchott which acts in accordance with orders from abroad.

The alliance repeats its urgent calls to all the peace- and justice-loving states and peoples to assist our people in getting rid of the clique of Haydala, Boukreiss and Bneijara, which usurped power by toppling the legitimate leadership of the country in 1978 for the sole benefit of the Polisario, which is now working for the expansionist ambitions of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in Africa.

The alliance asks in its statement: Will the world once again turn its back on the fait accompli and allow Mauritania to become a second Chad? The statement confirms that in any event the alliance, strong with its representation and the collective will of the Mauritanian people, shall never accept this fait accompli and shall not rest until it brings down the foreign authority in the country and that the establishment of a truly democratic regime is the sole guarantee of national unity, because allowing the majority to choose its leaders freely is the best direction for the country's interests.

The alliance ends its statement by saying: Victory for the brave fighters for freedom who are working for the liberation of the country, sacrificing their lives. The Mauritanian people shall win and the struggle shall continue.

Furthermore, the Senegalese Government expelled for Mauritanian Democracy, the movement opposing the Nouakchott regime and which announced today in Paris its responsibility for the attempted coup. The Moroccan ambassador in Dakar denied a report by radio Nouakchott at noon today that the Moroccan Embassy in Dakar had received members of the commando and said that this report is biased and is part of the campaign of poisoning and fabrications waged by the Mauritanian authorities against Morocco.

IRAQI ASSEMBLY DELEGATION MEETS WITH COUNTERPARTS

LD181542 Rabat MAP in English 1214 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 18 Mar. (MAP)--The delegation of the Iraqi National Assembly led by the speaker of this assembly, Mr Na'im Haddad, held a work session here Tuesday with a Moroccan parliamentary delegation, headed by Mr Dey Ould Sidi Baba, speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives.

On this occasion Mr Dey Ould Sidi Baba took the floor and recalled the efforts stepped up by the two countries to defend the rights and interests of the Arab nation and underlined the stance of Morocco vis-a-vis the struggle of the Iraqi people for liberty and democracy in the Arab world.

Mr Dey Ould Sidi Baba went on stressing the cooperation relations existing between Iraq and Arab countries and the Iraqi solidary stance towards Moroccan attempts to achieve territorial integrity.

The speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives also precised that the support Morocco gives Iraq is a challenge to irresponsible stances towards law, equity and Arabo-Islamic brotherhood saying, "The current Iraqi struggle is the proof of the conviction and the will of this brotherly people to recover its legitimate rights and liberate its spoilated territories".

Mr Dey Ould Sidi Baba also evoked the meetings of Moroccan and Iraqi delegations and expressed hope to see these contacts increase for the reinforcement of cooperation between these two legislative institutions in every field.

Later on, Mr Na'im Haddad took the floor and mainly stressed the need to offer the Arab nation the opportunity to rebuild all what colonialism had destroyed and mobilize common potentialities of the Arab countries to achieve harmonious development for the progress and prosperity of the peoples of the Arab nation.

Mr Haddad talked about the tension currently prevailing in the African northwest and precised that Iraq recommended the establishment of an earnest and fruitful dialogue based on law and justice in view of putting an end to this conflict which is contrary to the interests of the Arab nation.

Mr Haddad also dealt with the Moroccan democratic experience and expressed the respect and admiration of his country for this experience which preserved Moroccan unity and contributed to the mobilization of Moroccan potentialities for the interest of the Moroccan people.

Mr Haddad finally extended an invitation to the speaker of the House of Representatives and Moroccan deputies in view of increasing contacts and exchanging democratic experience between the parliaments of the two countries.

Joint Communique

LD181632 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Mar 81

["Text" of joint communique issued on 18 March by the delegations of the Iraqi National Assembly and the Moroccan Parliament]

[Text] In an effort to consolidate the bonds of fraternity and cooperation between the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Morocco, particularly between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Moroccan Parliament, and to strengthen these ties and widen their prospects in the interest of the two fraternal countries and the glorious Arab nation, an esteemed delegation of members of the Iraqi National Assembly, led by the speaker of the National Assembly and member of the Revolution Command Council, Na'im Haddad, paid a fraternal visit to Morocco from 14 to 18 March.

His Majesty King Hassan II graciously granted the Iraqi delegation an audience during which he renewed Morocco's support for Iraq in its just battle to regain its national and pan-Arab rights.

A working session was held between the Iraqi delegation and the speaker and members of the Moroccan Parliament, who represent various political ideologies and groupings. During the session a number of issues of common interest were reviewed. Views were exchanged in this regard, as well as in connection with the concept of democratic action and widening of its prospects and the method of parliamentary practices in both fraternal countries, as well as the prospects for cooperation between them, and the role of the parliamentarians in deepening democratic life and safeguarding the rights of the Arab individual and his basic freedoms.

Views were also exchanged on issues concerning the Gulf region, the Arab Maghreb and the Arab homeland in general.

The discussions which took place during the visit showed a similarity of views. A number of steps were taken which aim at consolidating cooperation between the two parliamentary establishments and strengthening fraternal understanding between them.

In the light of this, agreement was reached on the following:

To work for the consolidation of cooperation between the two assemblies and for expanding its range;
To establish comprehensive methods for this cooperation between Morocco and Iraq in various political, economic, cultural and information fields;
To work for the coordination and the crystallization of views between members of both Moroccan and Iraqi
Parliamentary branches, whether within the framework of the Inter-Arab Parliamentary Union or the International Inter-Parliamentary Union;
For exchange visits between members of both assemblies, and the exchange of experiments and experiences as well as documents.

The Moroccan Parliament expressed Morocco's solidarity with the Iraqi people in their just struggle to regain their legitimate rights to their land and waters.

The two sides decided to concentrate their activities on confronting foreign ambitions and the attempts to tear asunder the territorial integrity of both countries in the western wing and the Arabian Gulf, checking the challenge and dangers which the Arab nation is facing in both regions, resisting the imperialist and Zionist settlement and capitulationist plans and struggling by every means and with all capabilities to liberate Palestine and all the other occupied Arab territories.

The speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly expressed his thanks and gratitude to the speaker and members of the Moroccan Parliament for their support. He reaffirmed that Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, will remain committed to serving the aims of Arabism and defending the fateful issues of Arabism, and will strive to realize Arabism's unity, liberation, progress and independence.

He extended an invitation to a Moroccan Parliamentary delegation, under the chairmanship of Speaker Dey Ould Sidi Baba, to visit Baghdad to resume the dialogue and cooperation between the two fraternal assemblies.

18 Mar Departure

LD181602 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Excerpt] The speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, Na'im Haddad, and the delegation accompanying him today left for home at the end of the official visit they paid to our country at the invitation of the speaker of the Moroccan Parliament. The members of the Iraqi parliamentary delegation were seen off at the airport lounge by Speaker of the Moroccan Parliament Dey Ould Sidi Baba, his deputies, the Iraqi ambassador to Morocco and others.

KING HASSAN RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR 18 MAR

LD182318 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] This evening His Majesty King Hassan II received Yevgeniy Nersesov, USSR ambassador in Rabat, at the Royal Palace in Marrakech. The meeting was at the ambassador's request.

SUDAN

MINISTER COMMENTS ON ERITREAN WAR, AFGHANISTAN

JN181914 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Mar (SUNA)--Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, minister of state for foreign affairs, has declared that Sudan is continuing its efforts to end the war raging in Eritrea and to achieve peace in the region.

In reply to press questions at a conference on refugees held in Khartoum today, the minister pointed out that Sudan is now working to bring together the warring groups so that the problem can be solved. He also affirmed that Sudanese-Ethiopian relations are strong, adding that they are developing and have now entered the stage of joint cooperation in the interest of the two countries.

Asked about Sudan's stand on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the minister said that Sudan's stand is firm and clear and stems from the principles and foundations of its foreign policy, namely belief in noninterference in other states' affairs. This is why, he added, Sudan is against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

NUMAYRI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET GOVERNMENT

JN181434 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Mar (SUNA)--President Numayri today received the Soviet ambassador in Khartoum, who conveyed to his excellency the president a message from the Soviet Government explaining its viewpoint regarding contemporary African and world issues.

President Numayri outlined to the Soviet ambassador Sudan's inalienable stands on African issues in particular and world issues in general. The president stressed that Sudan's policy on these issues is based on fundamental principles stipulated in international charters, principles which provide for mutual respect in relations among states and non-interference in the domestic affairs of others. Sudan, the president added, regards these principles as a basic factor for developing security and stability in the world.

It is recalled that the Soviet ambassador requested a meeting with President Numayri several weeks ago, but the president was not able to receive him earlier due to the president's engagement in various political meetings.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS ON FOILED COUP PLOT

JN191123 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Mar (SUNA)--Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, first vice president, minister of defense and commander in chief of the armed forces, has asserted that the plot which was revealed by President Numayri in his interview with AP was in the planning stage and was aimed at carrying out a counterrevolutionary action against the people's gains.

In a statement to the weekly AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH, the first vice president added that the coup attempt was aborted in its initial stages. He said that the security organs closely followed the communications among the coup attempt's partners. The communications, which have been taking place since last November, aimed at achieving coordination and planning.

The weekly says that those who were arrested are Brig Gen Sa'd Bahr, former People's Assembly Member as-Sadiq Billah, Az-Zayn 'Abd al-Jalil Mu'Awiyah, Hasan Mahjub and 'Umar Ahmad, as well as three majors and three NCO's. Investigations are being conducted with all the detainees.

ETHIOPIA

ERITREAN RADIO CLAIMS DISSENT AMONG TROOPS

LD171454 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrina 0400 GMT 17 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Mendefera--Sharp contradictions among Dergue soldiers in Mendefera have led to armed confrontation. On 9 March, 1981, shooting broke out among enemy troops in Mendefera, in which one enemy soldier was killed and another two wounded.

According to a military representative of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front in the area, this armed confrontation is a result of contradictions existing among Dergue soldiers in general and opposition mounted by members of the Oromo, Tigrean and other oppressed nationalities of Ethiopia in particular, against the Dergue's opposition of nationalities.

SEYCHELLES

PRESIDENT CLAIMS SDAR MEETS OAU REQUIREMENTS

AB181611 Paris AFP in French 1450 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Victoria, 18 Mar (AFP)--It was announced in Victoria on Wednesday that the Seychelles president, Mr France Albert Rene, has asked the current chairman of the OAU and head of state of Sierra Leone, President Siaka Stevens, to immediately examine the issue of the admission of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, SDAR, into the OAU, as a legal member.

In a message addressed to President Stevens, the Seychelles head of state added that according to Article 28 of the OAU Charter the SDAR has, since last July, met the necessary requirements for OAU membership, having obtained the simple majority required for its admission.

President France Albert Rene stressed in his message that the failure to admit the SDAR as a full member of the OAU results from the persistent refusal of the OAU executive secretary general to conform with the terms of Article 28 of the charter. He described this attitude as one of flagrant violation of OAU principles.

SOMALIA

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES DPRK OFFICIALS

LD190008 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 18 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] foreign minister, Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre, this morning received in his office in Mogadishu the North Korean deputy foreign minister and his delegation who are currently visiting Somalia. The SDR foreign minister and the deputy foreign minister of Korea discussed bilateral relations between the two countries.

This morning the Korean deputy foreign minister also held similar talks with the SDR deputy ministers of agriculture and national planning on matters of mutual interest. The DPRK's delegation, led by the deputy foreign minister, this morning toured the polytechnic college in Mogadishu and was warmly welcomed by the students and staff on arrival.

LIBERATION FRONTS CLAIM MARCH MILITARY VICTORIES

3 Mar Clashes

LD161126 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 16 Mar 81 EA

[Text] On 3 March, the heroic Somali Abo Liberation Forces and the Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers clashed at (Suba), in the Nagele District of Sidamo Province. Sixteen Abyssinian soldiers were killed and many others were wounded. Two Abyssinian trucks were set on fire. The heroic Somali Abo forces did not suffer any casualties in the fighting and safely returned to base.

6, 7 Mar Clashes

LD141524 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 14 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Heroic Western Somalia Liberation Front freedom fighters were engaged in a fierce clash with the Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers at (?Garasle) in El Carre area on 6 March. The freedom fighters killed 20 enemy soldiers and wounded many others and captured 9 AK rifles in the fighting. The freedom fighters lost one martyr and had six others wounded.

Somali Abo freedom fighters attacked Abyssinian colonialist soldiers at Dada village in Yirga-Alem area of Sidamo region on 7 March, killing 50 enemy soldiers and wounding [words indistinct] others. The freedom fighters also captured 16 rifles and large quantities of foodstuffs and medicines.

The Somali Abo freedom fighters also carried out another attack at the beginning of this month on Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers at [name indistinct] in Yirga-Alem area, killing 37 enemy soldiers and wounding more than 60 others.

12 Mar Clashes

LD181444 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 18 Mar 81 EA

[Text] On 12 March the heroic forces of the Somali Abo and the Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers clashed at (Garfa) in Nagele area. Fifty Abyssinian soldiers were killed and 40 others were wounded. The heroic Somali Abo forces also inflicted other damage on the enemy soldiers. The Somali Abo forces lost six martyrs.

In another encounter which took place on 12 March, Abyssinian soldiers, together with their unholy allies, attacked civilians living in the villages of Nagele area in Sidamo Province. The enemy Abyssinian troops looted much livestock, namely camels, cattle and goats, as well as destroying 20 villages. The Abyssinian troops also killed 42 civilians, wounding 21 others. The Somali Abo forces bravely fought the Abyssinian troops.

In another encounter on the same day the Somali Abo forces and the Abyssinian black colonialist clashed at (Gul Gula) in Nagele area. Eight Abyssinian soldiers were killed and many others were wounded. One Somali Abo soldier was martyred.

UGANDA

KENYA GRANTS LOAN TO CLEAR IMPORTS AT MOMBASA

LD171630 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 17 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Kenya is to give Uganda a loan of 300 million shillings to clear Uganda's imports from (Kilindini) port of Mombasa. This was announced today by President Obote when he was officially opening Parliament in Kampala. He disclosed that Uganda coffee exports had increased by (?30) percent since the new government took office in December last year.

In the field of international issues, Dr Obote said his government will be guided by four principles: First, the government wants to have the closest cooperation with Uganda's neighbors. Secondly, the government would work for the unity of purpose in the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, the commonwealth and other international organizations. Thirdly, Uganda will work for the preservation of peace among nations in the framework of the UN. And fourthly, Uganda will work for the promotion of understanding generally.

BRIEFS

POLIO OUTBREAK IN KENYA--There is an outbreak of polio in Kilgoris division of Narok District, and several children have been admitted in the hospital for treatment. The disease, which is said to affect children most, is reported to have started at Olaloi area and spread to other neighboring areas. Kilgoris hospital staff and the Ministry of Health have mounted a campaign in the division to bring the disease under control. [Text] [Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Mar 81 LD/EA]

NEW TANZANIAN PRESIDENTIAL AIDE--President Nyerere has appointed Professor (Justin Maeda) to be assistant to the president responsible for the implementation of policy and regional development plans. Professor (Maeda) is currently a lecturer of political science in the village development. The appointment takes immediate effect. [Text] [Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 13 Mar 81 LD/EA]

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

INSURRECTION RUMORS PROMPT CURFEW DECREE

AB180730 Paris AFP in English 0707 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Bangui, March 19 (AFP)--A curfew was decreed throughout the Central African Republic by President David Dacko last night starting 7 p.m. because of rumors of impending insurrection in the wake of Sunday's presidential election.

Justice Minister Simon Narcisse Bozaaga announced the curfew on television. He explained there were rumors there would be insurrection and killings if such and such a candidate were elected. In democracy, one should be a good loser, he commented. If the people have not elected somebody to preside over their destinies, the unsuccessful candidate cannot impose himself by force. The minority must submit to the majority.

Observers noted that the four opposition candidates seemed reluctant to admit that President Dacko had a strong chance of being proclaimed the election winner by the Supreme Court today. Officials of his party, the Centrafrican Democratic Union (UDC), estimate that he won 55 to 60 per cent of the total vote.

PRESIDENCY CONFIRMS GISCARD'S GIFT TO RED CROSS

AB182223 Paris AFP in French 1717 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] The CAR presidency asserted on Wednesday that it had received a check from the Elysee in Paris for the Central African Red Cross. In a communique issued in Bangui, the presidency categorically denied the information published by a French weekly alleging that the president of the French Republic had not made any donation to the Red Cross in Bangui.

The communique pointed out that Mrs Ruth Rolland, who gave this information to the paper, learned of the receipt of the check on February 13, 1981 and actually saw it herself. After pointing out that Mrs Ruth Rolland, does not, above all, have the right to speak on behalf of the Central African Red Cross, the presidential communique stated that the French president's donation was available for the Central African Red Cross and would be handed over to the new officers as soon as they are chosen by the General Assembly.

It is recalled in Bangui that the French satirical weekly, LE CANARD ENCHAINE, asked Mrs Ruth Rolland about the check from the Elysee following the statement by the French president that sale of the diamonds offered by Bokassa had been for the benefit of the Red Cross and other Central African organizations. Mrs Rolland had told the weekly that she did not know about the donation.

Mrs Ruth Rolland is the former chairman of the Union of Central African Women. She is currently a member of the team of the independent presidentical candidate, Mr Francois Pehoua.

GABON

PRESIDENT REQUESTS STRONGER MILITARY, POLICE

AB161729 Paris AFP in French 1114 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Libreville, 16 Mar (AFP)--The Gabonese president, Mr Omar Bongo, has asked the Ministry of Defense to strengthen the military, the gendarmerie, the police and the presidential guards in order to seek out rumor mongerers rapidly, it was learned in Libreville on Monday. The head of state, before the ministerial council on Saturday criticized the acts of banditry, the distribution of defamatory tracts, and making false statements which casts slur on his honor, his wife, his family and his government. These rumor mongerers, whatever their status, will be tried and punished according to the law.

BENIN

RABAT HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR MAURITANIAN INCIDENT

AB181916 Paris AFP in French 1540 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Cotonou, 18 Mar (AFP)--Writing under the heading "A New Defeat of International Imperialism," the Beninese news agency BENIN-PRESSE violently attacks Morocco in an editorial on Wednesday devoted to the abortive coup d'etat in Nouakchott.

Morocco, which has become the flag-bearer and the nerve center for those who are trying by all means to destabilize certain regions of Africa, has just sadly placed itself in the spotlight of the international scene by subscribing to the aborted coup in Nouakchott, the Beninese agency says.

It affirms that the scenario is well known. It was a similar attack that was launched against the People's Republic of Benin on 16 January 1977. The people used are those whose ambitions have fallen through, traitors who are ready to treat with the devil in order to satisfy their hunger for power regardless of the lives of innocent people. Then, when it all falls through, those responsible for the attempt claim their innocence loudly in spite of indisputable evidence of their participation.

In conclusion, the editorial says no one can be taken in, neither can the international community. The abortive coup came from Rabat with the benediction of those who cynically supply Morocco with sophisticated weapons in order to destroy the Polisario.

GHANA

ECOWAS RECEIVES PROTEST ON TREATMENT OF GHANAIANS

AB181916 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Ghana has protested to ECOWAS against the inhuman treatment of her citizens in neighboring countries. This was disclosed by the executive secretary of ECOWAS, Dr Aboubacar Ouatara, at a news conference in Accra today. Dr Ouattara, who was on a routine visit to Ghana, noted that the protocol on free movement of people within the subregion is the first decision of the community to be implemented. As a result, a number of procedural difficulties may be expected. He hoped that soon these difficulties will be overcome so that citizens from member states would travel freely within the subregion.

PFP SUPPORTS STEPS TAKEN ON DEATHS IN IVORY COAST

AB181439 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] The Popular Front Party [PFP] says it fully endorses the steps taken so far by the government in connection with the tragic death of 46 Ghanaians in the Ivory Coast. It also gives the assurance that it will support any legitimate and diplomatic measures that will be taken to obtain redress and protect Ghanaians in future from acts of inhumanity anywhere. In a message to President Limann, the leader of the PFP, Mr Victor Owusu, expressed shock at the details disclosed by the minister of the interior on the brutal treatment meted out to Ghanaians in the Ivory Coast and the unceremonious burial of the 46 Ghanaians without reference to the Ghana Government or to the relatives of the deceased. The message suggested that the government should fix the date as a national day of mourning for those killed by suffocation. He hoped the inquiries to be carried out by the Ivory Coast authorities would be done openly and expeditiously.

LIBERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER HAILS BREZHNEV PROPOSALS

AB191145 Paris AFP in French 1057 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Monrovia, 19 Mar (AFP)--Liberian Foreign Minister Gabriel Bacchus Matthews has expressed satisfaction about Mr Leonid Brezhnev's proposals for the preservation of international peace and security during the recent CPSU 26th Congress, the Liberian news agency, LINA, announced on Wednesday.

The minister particularly approved Mr Brezhnev's call for the closing of the credibility gap existing between the East and the West through the publication of military information by both sides. He also affirmed that the peace plan proposed by the Soviet leader for the Middle East is in conformity with Liberia's position, adding that the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the right of all the states in the region to exist within internationally guaranteed and recognized borders were necessary prerequisites for lasting peace.

FIVE SOLDIERS DISMISSED FROM ARMED FORCES

AB182021 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Five soldiers have been dismissed from active service in the Armed Forces of Liberia for acts incompatible to the aims and objectives of the Liberian Armed Forces. Those dismissed were Capt Wilbur Washington, 1st Lt (Amos Kalo) and S Sgt (Fodey Sannie). Others included Privates Anthony Williams and Otis Harris. According to special orders issued at the Ministry of National Defense, the adjutant general was quoted as saying that the soldiers were dismissed from the army because of disregard for the objectives of the army and general restlessness.

In another development five other soldiers assigned to Bella Yella District in Lofa County are to forfeit about one-third of their monthly salaries for the months of April and May for negligence of duty. Meanwhile the chief of staff, Lt Gen (Henry Dogba) has warned all soldiers to desist from all habits that will carry negative idea about the army. He said a soldier is a disciplined and hard-working law-enforcing officer.

MALI

BAMAKO ON MAURITANIAN INCIDENT, OULD ZAMEL VISIT

AB181840 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Following the unsuccessful attack on Nouakchott last Monday, Mauritania has broken diplomatic relations with Morocco, which still denies any responsibility for the affair. But as Mr Ould Zamel, the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs, said yesterday the abortive coup d'etat in Mauritania was in reality an act of aggression.

[Begin recording] There was no coup attempt in my country. A coup d'etat is an attack organized by the national armed forces of a country. What happened in Mauritania was an attack launched from outside. Therefore, contrary to what you have just said and what other press organs have said, there was no coup attempt, there was an attack, prepared by the Moroccan Government with the help of men who were trained, armed, and financed by the Moroccan authorities. It happens that these men--and one must call a spade a spade--were in fact mercenaries led by two former Mauritanian officers who, as everyone knows, had been living in Morocco for more than a year. They were trained in Morocco and organized themselves in Morocco. Consequently there was no coup attempt in Mauritania. [end recording]

The Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs had just been received by the president of the republic, Gen Moussa Traore, to whom he delivered a message from President Ould Haydala of Mauritania. During their meeting, which took place in the presence of the Mauritanian ambassador in our country, His Excellency Ould Sidi Taki, and our minister of foreign affairs, Mr Alioune Blonoin Beye, they discussed economic cooperation and referred to the perspectives for future meetings of the Senegal River Development Organization, OMVS. Also the political situation in the subregion was at the center of their discussions. The secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People (UOPM) asked the Mauritanian diplomat to convey to the Mauritanian people, their government and president all the sympathy, compassion and solidarity of the Malian people, their party and their government in the face of the attack perpetrated against their brother country and in the face of this act of destabilization against their brother country.

So, 48 hours after the Moroccan attack on Mauritania last Monday--to quote the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs--the diplomatic consequences were very rapid; the breaking of diplomatic relations between Nouakchott and Rabat, Libya's condemnation of the attack and their declaration of support for Mauritania. In addition, President France Albert Rene of Seychelles has asked the current OAU chairman for the immediate admission of the Saharan Democratic Republic into the OAU. In Dakar, as soon as the news was announced, President Abdou Diouf received the Mauritanian ambassador in Senegal and telephoned the Mauritanian head of state and prime minister that very day. Yesterday evening an expulsion order was served to seven leaders of the Alliance for Democracy in Mauritania (AMD) living in Dakar. This organization claimed responsibility for the attack today. So far the Senegalese Government has not issued the list of the expelled opponents but according to good sources in Mauritanian and Senegalese circles this measure will particularly affect three top members of the AMD. According to the same source, they are: Mr (Mohamed Ould Chidou), coordinator of the AMD; Mustapha (Ould Abderrahman), also leader of the Kadir Progressive Proletariat Movement; and (Abdallah Ould Sidiya), trader and former prime minister under President Mokhtar Ould Daddah and former ambassador to Moscow. Lt Col Abdel Kader and Lt Col Ould Sisi, who attempted the coup in Nojakchott last Monday, were both members of the AMD.

NIGERIA

SENATE APPROVES INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING

AB181949 Paris AFP in English 1851 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Lagos, 18 Mar (AFP)--The Nigerian Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriation yesterday approved an increase of 3.4 million naira ($1.7 million) in the defense budget for the training of military personnel.

The chairman of the committee, Senator Ameh Ebute, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that this committee also approved both the recurrent and capital expenditure of the Ministry of Defence, without amendment.

In the 1981 estimate the Ministry of Defense has a total of 725,136,450 naira ($362,568,225) as recurrent expenditure and 594,033,500 naira ($297,016,750) for capital expenditure.

PARAMILITARY COAST GUARD TO BE ESTABLISHED

AB182158 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] A paramilitary coast guard is to be established in the country and charged with the responsibility of patrolling and protecting the country's territorial waters. The minister of state in the Ministry of Transport, Malam Garba Wushishi, gave these facts in Lagos today while addressing the heads of the navy and the police. To combat the constant crime at the ports, the minister said that a security force to be known as the Nigerian Ports Authority Port Police will also be set up.

He said that the port policemen would undergo the full training as the Nigerian police but they would most certainly be under the Ports Authority.

The minister further said that as a measure to check the emergence of piracy, all canoes and flying boats had been barred from operating near the country's harbor regions and that road checks will also be [word indistinct]. Malam Wushishi hinted that the stall patrol by the navy, police, customs and the Nigerian Army will also be intensified to ensure compliance.

NATIONAL CONCORD CALLS FOR CURBING ARMS INFLOW

AB181224 Lagos International Service in English 1130 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The issue of national security is the subject discussed by the NATIONAL CONCORD. The paper is worried over what it describes as the current massive arms inflow into the country. It cites a number of occasions when officials of the Department of Customs and Excise impounded firearms at the borders and strongly suspects that citizens aiming to destabilize the nation are behind the arms deal. The CONCORD therefore wants a complete overhaul of the nation's security system. In addition, it also stresses the need for the security agencies to cooperate and curtail the illegal arms importation.

SENEGAL

BANGLADESH PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

AB181640 Paris AFP in French 1454 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Dakar, 18 Mar (AFP)--A large crowd warmly welcomed President Ziaur Rahman and his wife on their arrival in Dakar on Tuesday for a 3-day official visit to Senegal.

In a speech welcoming his guests, Mr Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal, said this visit constitutes a brilliant demonstration of the excellent relations existing between their two countries and the indestructible friendship between their peoples.

Senegal was the first African country to recognize Bangladesh after the proclamation of the independence of that country in 1971 and the former Senegalese President Leopold Sedar Senghor paid an official visit to Dacca in 1974.

The program of the Bangladesh head of state's visit to Senegal includes the laying of a wreath at the monument for the dead, a first private meeting with his Senegalese counterpart followed by a meeting between their two delegations. In the evening Mr Abdou Diouf and his wife will hold an official reception in honor of Mr Ziaur Rahman, his wife and their delegation.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN TO BE INCREASED

AB131616 Paris AFP in French 1432 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Dakar, 13 Mar (AFP)--According to a communique issued in Dakar following the visit to Senegal of a Swedish trade mission headed by Mrs Margareta Hegardt, who is in charge of economic and trade affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senegal and Sweden will reactivate their trade and correct the imbalance in their trade relations.

Official sources in Dakar say that the imbalance is in favor of Sweden which in 1977 exported goods worth 825 million CFA francs to Dakar while it imported only 20 million CFA francs worth of goods from that country.

In order to correct the imbalance, Senegalese Minister of Commerce Falilou Kane has expressed the desire to export to Sweden Senegalese products such as groundnuts, calcium phosphate, lead scrap, fresh or frozen fish as well as tomatoes and melons.

On the other hand, according to the minister, more dynamic trade links can be promoted thanks to the changes brought about in the Senegalese trade regulations, characterized by the standardizing of customs duties at 15 percent for all countries, the suppression of the general import program and diversification of the country's trade partners.

PRESIDENT SAYS 1981 ECONOMIC PROSPECTS BLEAK

AB181415 Paris AFP in French 1047 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Dakar, 18 Mar (AFP)--Senegal's economic prospects for 1981 begin with a bleak outlook, Mr Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal, announced in a report to the Senegalese Economic and Social Council on Tuesday.

This situation, according to him, is brought about by the world economic crisis and the adverse effect of the drought on agricultural and industrial production in 1980. What is more serious are the effects of last year's deplorable climatic conditions on peanut production, which is Senegal's major export crop. This production, according to Mr Diouf, will not go beyond 200,000 tons, whereas under normal conditions they reach 1 million tons.

Mr Diouf said that the agricultural production's total value fell 20 percent in 1980, and the entire primary sector decreased by 14 per cent.

The industrial sector, which increased by 12 percent in 1979, also fell by 17 percent in 1980 with the edible oil plants alone recording a 48 percent decrease in their activities because of poor peanut production. This poor harvest resulted in a sharp fall in the export of peanut products (18 billion CFA francs in 1980 as against 42 billion CFA francs in 1979) thus contributing to the trade balance deficit estimated at 96 billion CFA francs.

Thanks to the external aid and the exceptional help received from France, which gave more than 60 billion CFA francs, the balance of payment deficit was brought down to 13 billion CFA francs as against 25 billion CFA francs in 1979, Mr Diouf added.

The head of state also announced an increase in the value added tax, the introduction of a tax on salaries and revenue and the improvement in the tax collection system in order to remedy the decline in government revenue in 1981.

Mr Diouf emphasized that Senegal's sixth development plan, which begins in July, envisages an investment of 463 billion francs: 24 percent for the primary sector, 34 percent for the second sector, 22 percent for the third and 20 percent for the fourth sector.

Mr Diouf hinted that the rural sector would be reorganized in order to relive the rural dwellers from a stiffling bureaucratic system and the numerous departments under which they operate. A special plan on the use of water resources would be set up to construct dams, wells and the development of irrigated land for farming.

SIERRA LEONE

FREETOWN REPORTS STEVENS VISIT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

AB190840 Freetown Domestic Service in English 0650 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Continuing his familiarization and fact-finding visits of East and Central African states, OAU Chairman President Siaka Stevens has held official talks with President Samora Machel of Mozambique during a 1-day visit to Maputo. Addressing roundtable talks on the South African issue, President Stevens emphasized that the call for sanctions was the only way to expose the hypocirsy of those countries, which were continually paying lip service to both the anti-apartheid stand and the desire to free Namibia from the racist regime. Their reaction to the call for mandatory sanctions will expose them for what they are because they have all the means to get South Africa to comply with world public opinion and the decisions of the international community, Dr Stevens observed. The firsthand information he was gathering, he said, would arm him for the forthcoming pledging conference on African refugees in Geneva as well as enable him to convince his colleagues, African heads of state and governments, of the importance of burden sharing, a topic which he said has been discussed for many years without concrete results.

While appreciating the efforts and help of donor countries, the president pointed out that in the final analysis, the African refugee problem will have to be solved by the Africans themselves. With the independence of Zimbabwe, he went on, he had all faith that the Mozambicans will be free to enjoy their independence, to consolidate their revolution and to safeguard their independence and territorial integrity. The president noted with regret that since Zimbabwe's independence, Mozambique has been the victim of blatant attacks and infiltrations by anti-government forces from the racist regime in South Africa.

President Stevens and his delegation were hosted to a private dinner at State House by President Samora Machel. Prior to his departure for Salisbury yesterday, President Stevens at a solemn ceremony laid a wreath at the national monument in memory of those heroic fighters of the national liberation movement who has lost their lives during the fight for freedom.

As he stepped down from his place, President Stevens was warmly received by his host, President C. Banana and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. At the end of the welcoming courtesies President Stevens and the members of his delegation were driven in a motorcade through the main streets, to the presidential guest house, which were thronged by thousands of jubilant Zimbabweans shouting freedom slogans and chanting welcome songs in honor of the visiting head of state.

Later in the day, President Stevens had separate discussions with President Banana and Prime Minister Mugabe on matters of mutual interest to both countries. On the tribal conflicts which were threatening the survival of Zimbabwe as a nation, the Sierra Leonean leader reminded them that no African country can boast of complete tribal homogeneity. He urged Zimbabweans not to allow tribal differences to wreck the gains of their hard-won freedom. President Stevens cited the OAU as a classic example of an institution representing 50 different ideologies, cultural backgrounds and languages but which has survived the test of times for nearly 18 years, relentlessly working to free Africa from oppression.

MOZAMBIQUE

MAPUTO ON 17 MAR CLASHES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS

LD181536 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 18 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The Mozambique defense and security forces stationed at Ponta do Ouro to the south of Maputo yesterday killed 2 South African soldiers following incursion of a force of about 50 South Africans. One of the soldiers killed, a radio operator, was carried away by the enemy attacking group. The other is at Maputo city mortuary. At the time he was killed, he possessed an FN-7 rifle, magazine, a telescopic sight and a compass. He had no mark or military rank. A Mozambique soldier was injured in the clash and is presently receiving treatment in Maputo.

At 0800 yesterday the naval forces stationed at Ponta do Ouro detected an infiltration of South African troops at which it alerted our border troops which advanced to the incursion area at the mountain separating Mozambique from South Africa close to Ponta do Ouro town. The clashes took place at 0845. The Mozambique soldier was wounded by two bullets at the very start of the clashes when the enemy force was (?withdrawing).

By mid-morning, the enemy force received a reinforcement company comprising about 150 men and two armored cars. On the Mozambique side, they tried to block access to Ponto Do Ouro airport and Vila Catembe Road but they were also fought off. The clashes ended at 1500 with the withdrawal of South African troops.

According to information from border troops, large numbers of South African troops continue to be stationed on the South African side along the border. Taking part in the clashes on the Mozambique side were the naval force, border troops, police and militia.

[Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese at 1700 GMT on 18 March repeats above item verbatim, and adds the following:

[The invading South African force largely comprised blacks commanded by two Boers. There were also white South African elements, as in the case of the radio operator and the other elements, both killed by the Mozambique forces. Meanwhile, national and foreign newsmen took photographs of the South African soldier killed yesterday at Ponta do Ouro following an incursion of the apartheid regime forces into Mozambique territory. The dead South African soldier was brought out of the mortuary where photographs were again taken, together with the war material he was killed with, comprising an FN rifle [word indistinct], ammunition cartridges [words indistinct], a water (?container), (?two) cups and a [word indistinct] watch, a pair of binoculars, a compass and other material. We recall that the other Boer soldier from the South African racist forces killed at Ponta do Ouro was removed to South African territory [word indistinct].

Situation 'Calm'

LD181846 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 18 Mar 81 EA

[Text] [Intercepted in progress] Defense and security forces and the population which enabled the total neutralization of the Boer aggression have shown a high degree of vigilance, determination and courage of our people and forces [words indistinct]. The situation at Ponta do Ouro after the clashes has been calm despite a large concentration of forces on the South African side of the border.

FREE TRADE AREA TO BE ESTABLISHED WITH TANZANIA

LD181200 Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 0400 GMT 18 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Maputo--Tanzania and Mozambique have agreed to establish the Ruvuma Free Trade Area, which will come into effect in January 1982.

The agreement is in a program of action reached during the sixth session of Tanzania-Mozambique Joint Commission for Cooperation, held in Maputo last week.

The idea of creating the Ruvuma Free Trade Area was first mentioned in 1978, and since then discussions had been held to bring it into existence. The Ruvuma Free Trade Area stipulates that tariff barriers now existing between the two countries shall be progressively removed and trade between the two countries will be competitive in the area.

SOUTH AFRICA

PRIME MINISTER REPLIES TO 'ONSLAUGHT' ON NATION

LD181354 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 81 CA

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. P.W. Botha, says if people want black and brown units to help protect the borders of South Africa then the government must take appropriate action to enable them to be there. Mr Botha told a public meeting in Rustenburg that it was necessary to follow a reasonable and sensible policy for the sake of those white youngsters on the borders and those who had sacrificed their lives. The first reply of the government to the onslaught against South Africa was that everything possible had to be done to guarantee the security of the country. He said that policemen would not have been able to perform their tasks without the reliability of colored and black policemen. Therefore, the government needed to act in such a way to retain this cooperation.

The second reply to these onslaughts against South Africa was economic growth so that military defense action might be maintained. While the rest of the world was shrouded in negative growth rate, last year South Africa had a growth rate of 8 percent and is regarded worldwide as one of the safest places for investment.

The third reply to these onslaughts was on the freedom of the people of South Africa. Referring to accusations that he was someone who just gave way, Mr Botha said the national party stood for fair and equal treatment and rights for all in South Africa. The prime minister emphasized that the battle in South Africa was not between black and white but between Christian civilization and communism.

OFFICIAL WARNS MAPUTO ON INVOLVEMENT IN CLASHES

LD182208 Johannesburg International Service in English 1200 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] The South African defense force has announced that Cpl (Petrus Viljoen) has probably been shot and killed by Mozambique soldiers on the natal border with Mozambique. A statement said the incident occurred while (Viljoen) and a few of his comrades unsuspectingly and probably innocently crossed the border at Ponto do Ouro, while walking on the beach. The outline [as heard] begins only west of the sand dunes which border on the beach. It said the alarming aspect of the incident was that the young men were led into an ambush and were attacked without warning.

The chief of the defense force, Gen Constand Viljoen, pointed out that it was South Africa's declared policy not to become involved in clashes with the armed forces of its neighboring states. This was also the case when the defense force attacked terrorist bases in these countries. But he said if it was the attitude of neighboring countries to attack South African soldiers who innocently wandered across borders they were heading for a serious crisis and such deeds would inevitably be viewed as deeds of open hostility.

General Viljoen said that so far the defense force had not killed or injured any soldier of Mozambique because of thorough training, of planning and careful execution of operations against terrorists in that country. Without doubt the present development would heighten tension on the border. That country and its undisciplined officers who caused the incident would have to accept the responsibility for this.

In Mozambique the official Mozambique news agency AIM has reported that the body of a white South African soldier has been displayed to local and foreign newsmen. The agency alleged that he was one of the two South African soldiers killed in a shootout on the border. It said the body of the second soldier was taken away by South African soldiers.

MINISTER CONDEMNS MAPUTO FOR KILLING SOLDIER

LD190615 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The South African minister of defense, Gen Magnus Malan, has sharply condemned the actions of the Mozambique soldiers who shot a young South African soldier in an ambush on the Natal-Mozambique border.

General Malan said: This action was cold-blooded murder and an undisciplined act by soldiers who should be called to account. It was shocking that the government of a neighbor state could use such cowardly actions in the effort to gain political capital after the South African attack on ANC bases in Maputo.

General Malan said neighboring governments had to realize once and for all that South Africa did not want to fight with them, and operated only against terrorists. He said that if South Africa really wanted to fight against one of its neighbor states, there would be no one left to tell the story.

OFFICER COMMENTS ON ATTACK ON SWAPO BASE

LD181634 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Only aircraft of the South African Air Force were used to attack a major SWAPO training camp in Angola yesterday. The officer commanding the Western Air Command in Windhoek, Brig (Bosman Kayser), said the attack on the base at the outskirts of Lubango--former Sa da Bandeira--had been very successful. The attack at lunchtime when the camp was full had been such a surprise that there had been scarcely any antiaircraft fire. There had been no interference from the Angolan Air Force.

The camp was one of SWAPO's biggest training bases and it is assumed that there could also have been Cubans, East Germans and Russians in the camp, who act as military advisers and instructors.

WINDHOEK OFFICER WARNS ANGOLA ON AID TO SWAPO

LD191132 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The general officer commanding the South-West Africa territory force has warned the Angolan Government not to help SWAPO terrorists or allow them to launch attacks against South-West Africa from Angolan territory. In a statement issued in Windhoek Maj Gen Charles Lloyd said that the territory force will not hesitate to take the necessary steps to protect the people of South-West Africa against SWAPO.

It was announced yesterday that aircraft of the South African Air Force had bombed a SWAPO base at Lubango in Angola in terms of a policy calling for attacks on all terrorist bases, even if they are in neighboring countries.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE WARNS U.S. ON RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

LD191050 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Mar 81 CA

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, says relations between Zimbabwe and the United States could be harmed if the Reagan administration supports South Africa's policies of apartheid and regional hostility. Speaking at a luncheon in honor of Dr Stevens in Salisbury yesterday, Comrade Mugabe said that he has written to the American President appealing for a correct direction of his policies in southern Africa. He said he trusts that our voice will be heeded.

BANANA ADDRESSES BANQUET HONORING SIAKA STEVENS

LD181336 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The president, Comrade Banana, last night pledged Zimbabwe's total commitment to the ideals and aims of the OAU in solving problems facing the continent of Africa.

Comrade Banana was speaking at a state banquet hosted in honor of the visiting president of Sierra Leone and current chairman of the OAU, Dr Siaka Stevens. President Banana condemned the Pretoria regime for its intransigence and shortsightedness in its latest sabotage of the Geneva conference in Namibia. Comrade Banana said the struggle against the apartheid regime of South Africa is also Zimbabwe's struggle and stressed that the tide will inevitably turn on the racist regime.

The president said the Government of Zimbabwe endorses the Lagos plan of action to combat the economic deterioration facing virtually the whole of Africa and also efforts to build an economically independent Southern Africa. He said the escalation in numbers of refugees in Africa is mainly due to the economic inadequacy facing the continent.

Comrade Banana praised the visiting head of state for working toward the recognition of African refugees as an international problem. The president also expressed Zimbabwe's gratitude for the support given by Sierra Leone, with particular mention of education, for Zimbabwe's struggle for independence.

The banquet was also attended by the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, cabinet ministers, members of Parliament and senators, as well as senior government officials.

In reply, the Sierra Leone President, Dr Stevens, called for the imposition of mandatory sanctions against the racist regime of South Africa to force it into accepting an international settlement to the Namibian independence question. Dr Stevens pledged the OAU's strong commitment to the liberation committee's plan of action and UN Resolution 435, which calls for independence and self-determination in Namibia.

He questioned the sincerity of the five-nation Western contact group over efforts being made to secure settlement for Namibia.

President Stevens said the independence of Zimbabwe had proved that no force could daunt the will of the people in their determination to achieve their right to national independence. He praised the people of Zimbabwe for their genuine human and material sacrifices in their struggle for the independence of the country. President Stevens called on all Zimbabweans to stamp out tribalism and racialism in order to ensure the reconstruction of the country's economy, as well as the consolidation of the Zimbabwean hard-won peace and independence.

Dr Stevens will this morning fulfill a number of engagements, including receiving heads of diplomatic missions from OAU member states, issue a joint communique with Comrade Mugabe, and lay a wreath at the heroes' acre. He leaves for Lusaka before noon today.